

ITALIAN STRIKES TAKE ANARCHISTIC TREND OF ACTION

By Edgar Ansel Mowrer
Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News.
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Rome, March 28.—The labor movements in Italy are apparently slipping from the control of the organizers and are taking a decided turn toward anarchistic strikes as protests by the common workers. It is no longer permissible to criticize their actions and the censorship is rigid against all middle class criticism of the government, which is accused of openly instigating armed resistance to the organizers.

After the labor organizers had asked the men on strike in Milan to return to work they refused and under the guidance of Alberto Mazzoni the Avanti newspaper they began a pitched battle in the streets against the police, both sides using firearms.

CASE IS CITED
The strangest and perhaps an epoch-making case is the Mazzoni cotton mills at Pontecanave and Torre Pellice near Turin. Mazzoni is a mill owner of the old school. He refused to treat with the workers or even to join either of the employers' federations which in the meantime had established certain agreements with the labor organizations. Some time ago Mazzoni's workers demanded new conditions and higher pay. Their demands were refused, whereupon a strike followed. Mazzoni closed his mills and refused to treat with the workers' organizations. The workers demanded that he accept the agreements made between the other mill owners and their hands, but he refused. Thereupon the workers submitted the case to the arbitration council in Turin.

EMPLOYER STANDS OUT
Mazzoni refused to appear or to discuss the matter with the arbitration commission which except as to a minor point or two, decided in favor of the workers.

Under the existing law this decision was only advisory, yet the prefect established a legal precedent enjoining upon Mazzoni to accept the decision. The mill owner paid no attention to the injunction and thereupon the workers took possession of the mills. Using Mazzoni's large stocks of raw materials, they proceeded to open the mills on a cooperative basis. The police who were present made no attempt to hinder the proceeding.

Mazzoni continues stubbornly to insist that he will be master in his own house, and the prefect's act is violently criticized. Now the government has taken over the mills.

Americans Aid in Making Vienna Big "Movie Capital"

London, March 29.—(I. N. S.)—Americans are investing \$20,000,000 to make Vienna the film capital of Europe, said a dispatch from Vienna to the Daily Express here. The Dreamland Film company has been formed with American capital and at the present rate of exchange the best stars of Europe can be secured at \$4 a day.

Americans are said to be buying hotels and health resorts in the Austrian Alps. Several small railways have already been bought with American money.

Wireless Talk With U. S. Hope of Swedes

By Hal O'Flaherty
Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News.
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Stockholm, Sweden, March 29.—The Swedish state telegraph office has approved a plan for erecting a wireless plant for communicating with America and costing more than \$2,000,000. The proposal will now be laid before the riksdag for approval, which is a foregone conclusion. The plan as outlined calls for a plant on a system which will assure rapid communication. This is the greatest single step taken toward closer relations between the Scandinavian countries and America.

Bolsheviki of Russia Hungry and Tattered But Still Optimistic

By Michael Farberman
Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News.
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Reval, Esthonia, March 19.—I have just returned from a five weeks' visit to Russia, my mind filled almost to overflowing with the most striking and startling impressions. I have seen a gloomy, grey, distracted people, fighting an epic battle for daily existence.

I have seen the whole of the old world torn to fragments and a new world slowly and painfully coming into being—a people desperate and depressed with the struggles of the day, yet spiritually buoyant and confident that the new Russia which emerges will justify their sufferings and privations.

THEY MUST DIG DEEP
I have seen many of the new institutions, studied the ambitions of the leaders of new Russia and observed the growth of new ideas and the evolution of new ideals. To describe what it is possible to see needs an army of honest, fearless journalists, able to probe beneath the superficial, contradictory and sometimes repulsive exterior and discover and appreciate the true soul of struggling, suffering, hoping, yearning Russia.

There is one thing among all that I have seen in soviet Russia which is supreme in my mind and which I feel I must tell before everything else: The sanitary misery of the Russian people and the desperate warfare they are conducting against the overwhelming odds of malignant diseases, famine and dirt, with the whole world indifferent through the organized spread of misrepresentation of that queer, defiant, Bolshevik Russia.

The sun is shining brightly into my windows here in Reval and most likely is shining over Petrograd and Moscow as well. It may sound queer, but the very sunshine is bringing into my mind a horrible vision of Russia suffering from insanitary conditions. That with the spring comes the epidemics will spread to gigantic proportions is the general opinion in Russia.

"I am terrified to think what the April sun will bring with it," said Maxim Gorky to me a few days ago in Moscow. "Moscow will simply be drowned in malodorous mud and the people will suffocate in the poisonous vapor. The melting ice will swamp the great cities of Russia and for weeks we will be living in the midst of marshes that spread death. And here we stand powerless, without soap and without the simplest medicines at our disposal."

Every spring, even for years before the war, saw great epidemics in Russia. This year the spring epidemic may unfortunately surpass in extent of given death toll any other plague within the last 20 years. The reason is that to all the other troubles an initially trivial one has been added, namely the bursting of the water pipes in most of the houses in Moscow and Petrograd due to the lack of fuel and the unusually severe cold.

No one who has not seen it with his own eyes can appreciate what this organization means to life in great cities. Water for cooking, drinking and washing, though available, has to be carried in pails, mostly by women, sometimes to the fourth and fifth stories. But water for sanitary purposes cannot be carried in sufficient quantities. Moreover, in most cases, the pipes are frozen and the water does not flow and the plumbers are helpless.

PEOPLE GO IN RAGS
Due once more to the severe cold and lack of fuel the whole water system is frozen solid and is practically paralyzed. Plumbing will be possible only when summer comes. This explains the present unbelievably insanitary conditions. During the winter all the dirt was frozen, but with the first rays of sunshine the dirt will liquify and constitute a stream of death laden germs.

Undernourished, emaciated, poorly clothed, and what is still more terrible, with rags on their feet instead of shoes, the people become an easy prey to typhoid and other terrible epidemics. After all, winter has been the healthiest, even if the most trying, time in Russia. This winter was unusually long and severe without a single day of thaw, but the severity of the frost was a blessing under these circumstances because, first of all, it solved for the time being the shoe problem. The people adopted the famous peasant foot-

wear called "volenky," or warm high felt boots. It was a queer sight to see the "volenky" worn by everybody in Moscow, including the women of that elite of the old regime. I have seen Lenin, Gorky and Kamenev, chairman of the Moscow soviet, on the platform making speeches wearing the same kind of boots that the ordinary peasant traditionally wears.

GOLASHES RUNNING SHORT
Persons, like myself, wearing leather boots, were gazed upon with envy in the streets. Felt boots are impossible in thawing weather, as water soaks through them and in warm weather they almost scorch the feet. The day I left Moscow was the first warm one this spring and people appeared in the streets with footgear that would disgrace the most abandoned American tramp. Only the traditional Russian golashes have saved the situation up to now but the supply of these is entirely inadequate.

In the houses the walls, due to the lack of heat, are covered with the frozen breath of human beings. With the advent of warm weather this will thaw out with the result that people will live, work and sleep in a dense mist. In the winter months they could cover themselves up and be warm in bed, but no clothes can save them from the all-pervading dampness. That is the situation sketched, crudely and inadequately portrayed.

GREAT TRIPLE ALLIANCE
The government is striving with might and main to grapple with the problem. As in all problems in Russia it is boiled down to a question of the triple alliance of food, transportation and blockade. The government's orders for the cleaning of houses, staircases and courtyards encounters the inability of people to obey owing to their weakened condition due to undernourishment. The government is unable to supply the additional food the people could do additional work.

Lack of horses and other means of

transport is the second factor which has resulted in the accumulation of 100,000 cartloads of dirt during the last few years in which Moscow has remained absolutely uncleaned. The government mobilized its inadequate transport facilities. The street railways for several hours on week days and all day on Sundays were used in carrying dirt.

One Sunday I followed the cleansing operations in Petrograd closely. From early in the morning until late at night almost the whole population were in the streets, clearing the ice from the sidewalks, carrying dirt in big baskets from the courtyards and loading it on car platforms or on carts drawn by horses. It was pathetic but only the first slight sign of the psychological changes which are developing in hungry Russia. I often stood envious and perplexed in the Russian cities seeing the new attitude of the people towards life.

At the end of that Sunday the streets had become dirtier than before, because the dirt was piled up in the middle of the principal streets in hideous black hills which could not be carried away by the few cars and carts mobilized for that purpose. Each succeeding day saw a still greater accumulation of dirt brought from the courtyards. The breakdown of the transport defied the best intentions of the Petrograd and Moscow populations.

TYPHUS ON RAMPAGE
But the blockade was without doubt the strongest factor. The absence of tools, such as shovels, axes and picks, needed by the thousands and usually imported from Sweden, rendered the campaign started by the government to clear Moscow of the frozen filth abortive. But the responsibility for the paucity of essential medicines, such for instance as camphor, which is indispensable in cases of typhus, is due more to the Germans.

Here in Esthonia one feels the difference between the treatment of Russia and the most sympathetic attitude toward the rest of the suffering countries of the world. When I left Esthonia six weeks ago there was raging an epidemic of typhus which encompassed Reval and all the country practically to the Russian border. Now on my return I find that the epidemic has not only been checked, but conquered. It has been fought from Reval to the Narva by those valiant foes of disease and other enemies of mankind, the American Red Cross workers, under command of

Colonel Edward W. Ryan, who has been known since the early days of the war in Serbia in 1914 and up through the Baltic states and Russia as "Typhus Ryan."

RED CROSS PROGRAM
I may overreach journalistic privilege, but I would like to suggest that it is a real man's job that awaits the American Red Cross in Russia. In fact, only the ability, resources, experience and communicative enthusiasm of the American Red Cross will enable the Russian government to combat epidemics in their most acute forms.

If the American Red Cross which has marched through all the devastated areas of Europe has become famous for its work and is loved and admired in all countries shall stop short at the Russian gates or shall arrive late, it will miss its greatest opportunity. Russia's greatest asset is her extraordinary vitality and the ability of her people to suffer without becoming despondent. Whatever may be the extent of the present suffering, Russia's vitality will conquer in this battle with poverty, dirt and disease. In Russia one gets a clear idea that it is a battle for existence which is now going on all over the world and that vital men, vital classes and vital nations will conquer.

Low Cut Gown Is Cause of Near Riot In Budapest Opera

Budapest, March 29.—A Parisian evening gown of daring cut worn by Mme. Ilona Szakas, Hungarian society leader, was the cause of a demonstration closely approaching a riot at the opera last night. When Mme. Szakas entered her box there was a murmur of astonishment from the audience. Then came hisses and spectators finally began throwing fruit, candies and other missiles at the object of their displeasure. Police called by the management took Mme. Szakas to the station, but no charge was made against her. She said the offending gown was the latest Paris model and had not excited adverse comment by the Parisian public.

Apparatus has been invented by a Norwegian with which carbide is being used for fuel in benzine motors for boats and he is experimenting with its use in petroleum engines.

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