

DIGEST OF THE FOREIGN PRESS

Notes to Germany and the Allies.

In general the French press has received Secretary Hughes' note to Germany with a good deal of satisfaction. Such papers as *Le Temps*, *Journal des Debats*, and *La Liberte* see in the note a new proof of our friendship for France and a knockout blow to the hope of Germany, to make propaganda in the United States, and to cause dissension among the allies. The Nationalist papers also consider America's attitude toward Germany, as defined by this note, as encouragement or at least as approval of further vigorous action by France against Germany.

The note dealing with the peace settlement, and in particular the mandate for the Island of Yap, has caused a different reaction. There is a tendency to overlook that part of the note which refers particularly to the controversy regarding the Yap mandate and to focus attention upon the possible effect on France of a general application of the principle laid down by Mr. Hughes, which establishes the right of this government to veto peace settlements in which our interests are affected. Fear is expressed in some quarters that the United States may extend this principle to include not only mandates but other post-war settlements, such as the German indemnity and shipping. If this were done it would mean virtually the re-opening of the whole question of German reparations and practical repudiation of the Treaty of Versailles. The *Paris Midi* makes a sarcastic reference to the attitude of the United States, picturing Uncle Sam as refusing to recognize or accept any responsibility for the actions of the American representatives at Versailles and as demanding that the other allies change whatever there is in any of the treaties which he does not approve. The *Echo de Paris* and *Figaro* point out that France cannot be blamed for accepting the Wilson policies as the policies of America. If it is the intention of the Republican administration to disown these policies, France feels justified in asking that in so doing the American government recognize that some consideration is due the allies. The hope is expressed that in applying the principle of American veto of peace settlements, our government will not go far enough to make the enforcement of the treaty of Versailles more difficult than it now is. There is a general feeling that these questions will be cleared up satisfactorily by a further statement of American intentions.

Communism in Italy.

"THE CULT OF LENIN, which was preached last year zealously by Italian Socialists, is falling into disfavor." This is due, according to the *Anglo-Italian Review*, to the spread in Italy of knowledge of what Bolshevism has done for Russia. Two members of the Socialist mission to Russia, Nofri and Pozanni, have set down their observations in a book which describes in considerable detail effect of Bolshevism on industry, individual liberty and social conditions. In conclusion the authors declare that "no country is so far removed from Socialism as is Russia." The general dissemination of knowledge of the real situation in Russia is helping to discredit the theory that the aims of the Socialists can best be served by emulation of the Russian Communists.

The results of the Socialist Congress at Leghorn have been variously interpreted. The Communists who secured 58,783 votes of a total 171,506 left the Congress and set up the "Italian Communist Branch of the Third Internationale." Many of the Socialists were influenced to vote against acceptance of Third Internationale by the arrogant tone of Kabocef, a representative of Lenin, who demanded the expulsion of all those who would not accept the dictatorship of Moscow.

Summing up the results of the Leghorn Congress this writer in the *Review* asserts that save for the expulsion of the Communists, who may later return to the fold, the Congress did not decide any of the issues which have split the Socialists into many groups. "The chasm that divides the extreme Left from the Right, if not as wide as it was, is wide enough to be unbridgeable."

Chamberlain and the Coalition.

COMMENTING on the election of a leader of the Conservative party in the House of Commons to succeed Mr. Bonar Law, the *London Times* calls attention to the fact that Mr. Austen Chamberlain was not elected leader of the party as a whole. Since leaders are evolved and not elected, the *Times* assumes that Mr. Chamberlain has been elected "to an opportunity evolving into a great party leader."

The *Times* considers that the former chancellor of the exchequer has the courage, the character and the experience to entitle him to this position and that he should develop qualities of leadership which should justify his election. His election, however, leaves the prime minister's position in the house of commons undefined. The implication is that in spite of the new

leader's personal desire to continue his party's present policy as a part of Lloyd George's coalition, events may bring this alliance to an end, an eventuality which the *Times* anticipates with evident pleasure.

Premier Hughes on Anglo-American Relations.

DURING THE WAR and at the peace conference Premier Hughes of Australia won a reputation for frankness. He has recently been living up to that reputation by a very frank discussion in the Australian Parliament of international relations in the Pacific. In the course of his address Mr. Hughes discussed the Japanese problem as it affects Australia and the United States, the Anglo-Japanese treaty, naval rivalry, and the peace of the world.

While he advocated a renewal of the Anglo-Japanese treaty, Mr. Hughes stated that the hope of the peace of the world lay in an alliance or understanding between the two great branches of the English-speaking peoples. He declared that the Anglo-Japanese treaty should be modified if in its present form it stands in the way of an Anglo-American entente. The Australian attitude on the Japanese question is like that of the Western States of America. "While making every effort to retain the friendship of Japan," he is reported to have said, "we cannot make an enemy of the United States, nor can Britain do so."

Simons Rouses German Ire.

Dr. Simons' statement relative to new proposals for paying the German indemnity appears to be getting a better reception from the allies than from certain quarters in Germany. In the course of his interview published in the *Paris Matin*, the German foreign minister admitted that his country had to talk business with France, as it was convinced that the allies would not oppose the extension of penalties to Germany if no satisfactory arrangement for the payment of reparations is reached. He also declared that the capacity of Germany was not only a technical question but a question of psychology. It was this admission of the psychology factor which particularly enraged German reactionaries. Several reactionary papers have demanded that the conduct of negotiations be no longer left with Dr. Simons.

Referring to the German note to the United States, Dr. Simons maintained that he did not seek the intervention of America but desired merely to explain Germany's position.

Extremists in Italy.

ITALY'S troubles are not restricted to the agitation and violent demonstrations of Communists and anarchists. The reports of riots and other disturbances usually place the blame about equally on the Communists and on the Fascisti. Between these two groups of extremists Italy's progress towards reconstruction is made extremely difficult.

The Fascisti is an organization which has been formed ostensibly to counteract the active propaganda of extreme Socialists and Communists in Italy. It is recruited largely from the middle class, a large part of its number being university students. According to its own manifesto, its program is in the symbol of the fasces of the Roman lictors signifying respect for law and justice and with the Roman eagle signifying the expansion of civilization and the work of genius throughout the world. By combating violence with violence and by giving encouragement to imperialistic adventures on the Adriatic and elsewhere the Fascisti are contributing little but confusion to the solution of Italy's problems.

Moscow and Spanish Socialists.

As in the case of the British Labor Party and the Italian Socialists, the Spanish Socialists have been considerably disappointed by the reports brought back from Moscow by two of their representatives who were sent to consult with Lenin relative to the terms by which Spanish Socialists might become affiliated with the Russian Communists. Lenin is reported to have explained to these delegates that the purpose of the dictatorship of the proletariat was not to secure freedom for labor or freedom of the press, or any other kind of freedom, but to carry forward the world revolution.

The length of time which would be necessary to continue this dictatorship depended, according to Lenin, on the country in question. In Russia, which is not an industrial country, it might last for 40 years, while in countries like England and Germany the period would be shorter. Lenin also insisted that the twenty-one points of his manifesto, which Socialist and Labor parties of other countries have been unable to swallow, must be accepted if the world revolution is to succeed. The Soviet leader agreed that they were severe, but insisted that they were necessary in order that the revolution might not be continually hindered by the troublesome tactics of reformists and opportunists.

The Plebiscite in Austrian-Tyrol.

EXCITEMENT in political circles of Paris has been caused by the announcement that on April 24 a plebiscite will be held in the Austrian-Tyrol when the population will vote on the question of union with Germany. The French are inclined to hold the Germans responsible for this move and consider it the first step in a plan for the annexation of Austria. The annexation of the Tyrol would establish a common frontier between Germany and Italy, which might have far-reaching effects both economic and political. Although the Austrian government has officially forbidden the plebiscite, it is expected that the French will demand that active measures be taken to prevent the plebiscite being held.

From the point of view of the Austrians, and especially the Tyrolese, the action which is contemplated is justified by the belief that the allies have imposed upon Austria conditions which prevent her economic recovery. Although the allies have recognized that the Austrian situation is an intolerable one, they have done little beyond discussing plans for giving Austria help. The Austrian provinces, and especially the Tyrol and Vorarlberg, where there is considerable sentiment for union with Switzerland, have been threatening for a long time to act independently. As long ago as last September an unofficial plebiscite was held in the Tyrol, the result of which, according to the pan-Germans, was that 80 per cent of those voting favored union with Germany. Austrian provinces have long felt that if they were not burdened with the support of Vienna, they would be able to work out their own salvation. This plebiscite in the Tyrol, however, is the first open action tending toward the dissolution of the Austrian republic. It is a revolt not only against the terms of the treaty of St. Germain, but against the conditions which force Austrian provinces to bear the burdens of Vienna as well as their own.

Belgium and German Customs.

The 50 per cent duty on German goods and the chain of Custom Houses established by the allies in the occupied territory will not, according to the *Etoile Belge*, have effects wholly beneficial to Belgium. This paper asks if a 50 per cent duty will not in reality be added to the price of goods destined for Belgium, so that in the end it will be the Belgians who are paying instead of the Germans. As for the custom houses, they will entail an increase in price of Belgium products going to Germany and German products going to Belgium, while the products of neutrals and other allies which cross other frontiers to Germany will not be subject to this same increase.

Distribution of Jewish Population.

According to the estimate submitted to the Riga peace conference by Prof. Eugene Romer, the Polish statistician, 11 per cent of the population of Poland is Jewish. As the total population is about 30,000,000, this means that over 3,000,000 Jews live in Poland. According to Prof. Romer, these constitute one-fifth of the total Jewish population of the world. The Jewish population of the United States and of Russia is about equal, there being about 3,500,000 in each country. The remainder of the Jews, about 5,000,000, are distributed as follows: Europe (except Poland and Russia) 4,000,000; Asia, 400,000; Africa, 400,000; America (except the United States), 200,000.

Sinn Fein's Peace Terms.

THERE are indications that the British government has become convinced that their present policy in Ireland will not and cannot effect a settlement of the Irish question. The opinion seems to have been reached that the government must either negotiate with Sinn Fein or establish martial law and give the military full power to crush the rebellion. Considerable significance is attached to replies given by Michael Collins, the Sinn Fein leader, to a series of questions sent him by a correspondent.

On the question of whether the Irish would accept any settlement which did not grant complete independence outside the British Commonwealth, Mr. Collins stated that if the English would abandon might for right there would be little difficulty in finding a friendly solution. He also declared that the Irish employed violence only in self-defense and if the English stopped their campaign of aggression there would be no longer any need for the Irish to defend themselves. As a basis for settlement, the Sinn Fein leader said that complete control of Irish affairs involved the complete disappearance of English interference. Mr. Collins asserted that the failure of the negotiations conducted through Archbishop Clune last December was due to the belief on the part of the English government that the Irish resistance was weakening, which influenced them to insist on a complete surrender.