AMERICAN MONEY SAVING LIVES OF SERBIAN PEOPLE

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

CORFU, Island of Corfu, Dec. 12.—"The funds advanced to Serbia by the United States government are saving the lives of the Serbian people," said the Serbian Minister of Public Works, Dr. Montchilo Nintchitch, who has been charged with the expenditure of the advances from the American government.

Dr. Nintchitch had been telling of the various uses the American money was put to, for the 136,000 Serbian prisoners in Germany and for interned civilians, refugees, and pensions. But now he turned to a story of the cruelty and butchery which the Bulgars are still prosecuting against the Serbs.

"Serbia has suffered more than any other country," said Dr. Nintchitch, "for not even the ruin of Belgium and the devastated regions of France can be compared with what Serbia has suffered. The people of Belgium and France had seaports to go to escape in ships, and they had railways. But the Serbian people had no ports for escape, and when the Monastir railway line was cut by the Bulgars they had no railway. So they were literally caught in a trap, with no means of egress, and except for those who made the exodus across the mountains, the whole peasant population has come under the control of the Bulgar invaders. Moreover Belgium and France have been under the eyes of England and America, while Serbia is cut off from the world, with no knowledge of what goes on there and no mail from there for two years.

"The Serbian peasants have been stripped of everything. All their horses, cattle and livestock has been taken, and their farm machinery has been destroyed. Men, women and children have been killed in the most revolting manner, and on the most flimsy pretext. In this the Bulgars go far beyond the Austrians, for the Austrians have a trial and a formal condemnation to death. But the Bulgars have no trial or condemnation. The order to kill is given, and the soldiers are practically free to take life on their own judgment without any order."

As documentary evidence of this killing, the Serbian ministry of foreign affairs have had photographs, copies of which were given to the correspondent, showing six Serb peasants strung up side by side from rough stakes driven in the ground, with a cross-piece above for the noose, while groups of soldiers and officers are gathered about, laughing over the contortions of the victims.

"The Bulgar policy is to consider Serbia and the Serbian people as annihilated," Dr. Nintchitch went on. "To this end they hold that the Seros no longer exist, and every Serb must become a Bulgar, take a Bulgar name and become a Bulgar citizen.

"Our Minister of War, General Terzitch, has just gone through a trying family experience of this kind. His aged mother, over 70 year old, remained in Serbia after the exodus, as she was too old and feeble to make the journey. All trace of her had been lost, but when she was finally located, General Terzitch applied through the relief authorities for her transfer. But to this application the reply has now come back from the Bulgar authorities that Mme. Terzitch cannot leave the country as she had become a Bulgar citizen.

"The drafting of Serb peasants as soldiers in the Bulgar ranks is one of the worst forms of cruelty being practiced. This is systematically carried out, with notices posted in all public places telling all men over 17 years of age to report for military duty. This placing of a whole population in the military service of the enemy is an unheard of cruelty, and contrary to every rule of international dealing in time of war. But it is justified by the Bulgar on the theory that Serbia does not exist and that the Serbs are Bulgars.

"A member of the Serbian chamber of deputies was here yesterday, and gave me a harrowing report of his family still in Serbia. One of the boys had already been killed. The second boy had been ordered to become a Bulgar soldier. The mother protested, whereupon she was sent to Nish and put in prison, where she went insane. Meantime the boy ordered to become a Bulgar soldier had escaped to the mountains and a price has been placed on his head. This experience in the family of the Serbian deputy is merely typical of the thousands we are hearing of from all quarters daily.

"We have received full details of the revolt which the Serbian peasants remaining in the country directed against the Bulgar oppression," the minister continued. "This has come in a letter from a well known teacher. The revolt was really a revolt of women—of the Serbian mothers, wives and sisters—in a frantic protest against having their sons, husbands and brothers forced into the Bulgar ranks to fire on Serbian soldiers. This women's movement became so threatening that a German division at Nish was sent to quell it. When this failed, two Bulgar divisions were sent against the increasing ranks of the revolt.

"This gave the Bulgars the opportunity to perpetrate a new infamy. Sending their troops against the women, they took as prisoners a large number of the wives, mothers and sisters who had protested against their men being taken as Bulgar soldiers. Then these wives and mothers were forced in ranks; placed ahead of the Bulgar divisions, and in this battle order with the Serbian women in front as a screen for the Bulgar troops—these divisions pushed against the main body of the revolting peasants. It was only by such methods of using the women as screens, and by resort to the most extreme cruelty that the revolt was finally put down. In one case, the writer of the letter gives details of seeing a Serbian peasant hung up by the tongue."

The minister spoke of the increasing needs of these Serbian peasants during the coming cold months. Those Serbs who have escaped, and who are here at Corfu and at various Balkan points, can send little or no relief, for they lost everything and have nothing to give.

"It is for this reason," said the minister, "that the funds advanced by the United States government are truly providential, and are saving Serbian lives, thousands of them."

The advance made by the United States was 15,000,000 francs, or $3,000,000. This was designed to cover a period of three months; and at this rate the advance for a year would be $12,000,000 or 60,000,000 francs. The distribution of these funds is under the direction of Dr. Nintchitch, with the American Charge d'Affairs, H. Percival Dodge, in frequent consultation with him, and exercising American supervision.

In making the expenditures, the first $3,000,000 has been divided in three parts of $1,000,000 each. The first million is being employed for the Serbian soldiers held as prisoners in Germany, Austria and Bulgaria, and for the civilian Serbs interned in these countries. Together, these Serb prisoners and interned aggregated about 200,000. These people get a bare existence in the prison camps where they are held, and anything beyond this bare existence comes from the American funds.

The second $1,000,000 is used for pensions and relief to the wounded Serbian soldiers no longer able to the Serbian peasantry remaining in Serbia.

The third $1,000,000 will be used mainly for reconstruction work in Serbia, in replacing bridges, roads, etc., which have been destroyed, so that Serbia, one restored to its people, may be brought back, in part at least, to its former condition.

SERBIAN ORPHAN BROUGHT TO U. S. ASPIRES TO BE A GOOD AMERICAN

Miss Elizabeth Shelley and Bogaljub.

Miss Elizabeth Shelley of Washington has a memento of many months' work conducting with Mme. Slavko Grouitch a children's hospital in a little Serbian town in the early stage of the war. His name is Bogaljub, which is Slavic for God's love, and his chief ambition is to be a boy scout and a good American citizen. Bogaljub is four years old, one of the few Serbian orphans allowed to depart from Serbia after the Austro-German occupation.

OMAHA 'MAN HATER' WEDS CONTRACTOR

Stella Bedford Wilson, 27 years old, Omaha's only woman lawyer, and professed man hater, has abandoned her legal career and fallen before the wiles of Dan Cupid.

A few weeks ago, R. E. Evans, Omaha stone and marble contractor, secretly made her his bride and took her with him to Hastings, where they are spending their honeymoon.

Mrs. Evans has been practicing attorney in Omaha for nearly two years, and with offices in the Omaha National bank building, where she is said to have a remunerative practice.

She received her education in the law by going to Creighton college at night, while she was employed as a clerk in the office of the clerk of the district court.

ITALIAN CHEMICAL TRADE CONSTANTLY INCREASES IMPORT

In Italy, especially at Turin, considerable quantities of acetic acid are obtained in distilling wood for the manufacture of charcoal. The better grades of acetic acid are received from Great Britain. The latest statistical tables published by the government at Rome show that during the first quarter of 1917 25 tons of pure acetic acid, not exceeding 10 per cent in glacial acetic acid, and valued at 9,000 Italian lire, were exported from Italy, while 21 tons of pure acetic acid, worth 73,000 lire, containing more than 90 per cent of glacial acetic acid, were imported. This product is very largely used in Lombardy, consular district of Milan, in the dyeing trade.

The demand for bichromates is supplied by Italian manufacturers, whose production is almost sufficient to meet the requirements. In fact only insignificant quantities are imported. The Italian producers are in Genoa.

The types of bleaching powder or chloride of lime that are in demand are the 35 per cent grade, British standard, white, used for disinfections, and the 70-75 grade, gray, fused, used in ammunition factories and refrigerating plants. It is imported from Great Britain. During the first quarter of this year 218 tons, worth 33,000 lire, were shipped into Italy.

Carbolic or phenic acid is imported from Great Britain in 50-kilo zincked iron drums, the grades required being 35-37 during the winter months and 39-40 in the other months. As this product is used for making explosives it is controlled by the government, and offers will have to be addressed either to the government at Rome or to its officials in America.

The 76-78 grade of caustic soda has an excellent market, while the demand for the 72-73 grade is limited. It is extensively used here in the soap industry, and there are numerous soap factories in Milan.

Chlorate of potash is manufactured in Italy. There is a factory in Legnano in this district. The product is under the government's control, as it is used in making explosives. Considerable quantities are also imported. Offers are to be made to the government at Rome or its officials in America.

Italy produces substantial quantities of citric acid and supplies other countries, including the United States. Glycerin is obtained here from the distillation of fat acids in the soap industry, but large quantities are also imported. Glycerin is controlled by the government.

There is no demand for soda ash, inasmuch as, owing to the high freight rates, its price would be so excessive that it is preferable to use caustic soda.

Blue vitrol or sulphate of copper, pure, 99-99½, is largely used for technical treatment of grape vines. Although it is produced in Italy, some quantities also are imported, the United States having supplied 123 tons and Great Britain 25 tons during the first quarter of this year. The proper time for closing contracts is in November and December.

Carbonate of soda, Solvay, 89-100, in very large demand at present, and dealers here would like to receive offers.

HUDSON PRESIDENT IN GOVERNMENT POSITION

Roy D. Chapin, president of the Hudson Motor Car company, has been appointed chairman of the newly created highway committee of the council of national defense. The purpose of the committee is to assist the railroads and ther means of transportation in the movement of supplies during the war and to work with the highway authorities to maintain the public roads for such use. The other members of the committee are Logan W. Page, director of the office of public roads; Henry G. Shirley, chief engineer of the Maryland road commission; and George H. Pride, president of the Heavy Haulage company, New York.

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