

BOHEMIA IS A COUNTRY OF VAST RESOURCES

Her Natural Advantages and in What Respect These Can Be Utilized and Multiplied.

By E. F. PRANTNER.

An examination of the map of Europe, one on which the outline of the new, or rather revived state of Bohemia may be traced, impresses one with the apparent conviction that the republic cannot long economically exist unless it depends and draws on the resources of her neighboring peoples—the peoples who, almost without exception, are antagonistic to the ambitions and aspirations of the Czechoslovaks.

Hungary, Austria and Germany border on the south, west and partly on the north, Poland on the east, the Ruthenians of Bukovina and the Rumanians of Transylvania adjoin on the east. The inhabitants of the Magyar and German states are bitter opponents of the peoples of Bohemia. What attitude the Poles will assume is difficult, at present, to predict. Suffice it to note that if their past records are any indication of their possible future course the Bohemian republic will receive but slight consideration and very little sympathy from unified Poland, for heretofore each of the former divisions has pursued a vacillating policy, one phase of which constantly sought and carried favors from the ruling and titled classes of the governments under which they lived.

Therefore, the only possible friendly neighbors are in the east, the Ruthenians of Bukovina and the Rumanians of Transylvania. But even their policy is unsettled. The Mid-European Union, so auspiciously and so recently organized in historic Independence Hall, Philadelphia, is in danger of disintegration due to the differences arising among the delegates of the numerous peoples represented.

The possibilities are that what seem to be insurmountable obstacles will be satisfactorily adjusted, and the Czechoslovaks will enjoy at least the friendship of these peoples.

Bohemia is an economically independent country. This sounds as rather a bold assertion in the face of the enumerated handicaps. She is not dependent, economically, on her neighbors, but they, in turn, must draw upon the Bohemian resources for their many shortcomings in agriculture and industry.

If we give consideration to the impression made on the Iron Chancellor of Germany, Bismarck, the economic position of Bohemia may be more readily appreciated, for he once stated that whoever is "the master of Bohemia is the master of Europe." To-day these words are not accepted or even put forth as truisms, but they have a tendency to induce a more comprehensive estimate of Bohemia's commanding position in the commercial world.

The Czechoslovaks, or the other Slavs of Europe, for that matter, have not sought and have no intention of seeking in the future the mastery of the European continent. Their only desire is that they be permitted to develop along economic and cultural lines in their own lands as free peoples living under independent governments.

During all the ages the commercial routes from the west and east, as well as from the north and south of Europe led through Bohemia. Her position has not been altered in the slightest even in this day. The Berlin-Hamburg Railroad runs through Bohemia. Two of its most important stations are in Prague and Brno. With Bohemia a free state the German "super dream" instantly vanishes, for the Czechoslovaks control within their territory this vital line of communication between Germany and the Balkan Peninsula.

It is an elementary axiom of economics that the prime factor necessary to the successful existence of a country is its capacity to produce a sufficiency from the soil to properly sustain its people. Bohemia fulfills this prerequisite; nay, it does more. It reaps such bumper crops that her neighbors are dependent upon her to supplement their meagre and insufficient harvests.

More than fifty per cent of the total area of the country is devoted to agricultural pursuits. The well kept meadows and the intensively cultivated fields, particularly those known as the Gardens of Bohemia, render in quantity and productiveness, of the Mohawk valley of the Empire State. The yield of grains is so abundant that it meets the domestic requirements and allows for large quantities to be exported. As a matter of fact, the other countries of the former Austria-Hungarian Empire invariably depended upon the Bohemian surplus cereals to supplement their scanty crops, which at all times are far short of satisfying the people's needs.

For its supply of refined sugar Bohemia looks to her beets. The annual bounteous yields are such that they supply the Czechs with sugar and permit the export of approximately five hundred thousand tons of about seventy-five per cent of the total. In England the Bohemian sugar finds a ready market, here it has been favorably known for many years. Potatoes are a staple food of the country and the return of the soil is such that none are imported.

Cattle raising is another major industry. The model country in this field, in Europe, is Denmark, therefore a comparison is permissible. Denmark maintains about seventy-three head of cattle to the square mile, while Bohemia boasts of sixty-seven head. But this important distinction must be borne in mind that Denmark is an exclusively cattle raising country, while Bohemia is both a cattle raising and agricultural community. Therefore this phase of the natural productiveness of Bohemia is strikingly illustrated.

In the poorer lands, those unsuitable for tillage, the raising of sheep is a thriving industry. The supply of wool is but slightly less than the requirements of the people. Hog raising is another important factor and those raised annually answer the country's needs and the surplus, which is immense, is eagerly absorbed by foreign consumers.

Bohemian hops have a worldwide reputation. They are one of the most important ingredients of a popular, though at present, much abused beverage—beer. Pilsen beer is brewed from these hops. It has no equal; it certainly has no superior. It is an exclusive Bohemian product.

The climate of Bohemia is well suited to horticulture and the wines and fruits of its orchards, especially the plums, enjoy extensive and favorable markets. The annual yields are plentiful. After providing for the domestic demands the excess is disposed of to less fortunate people, for these are entirely dependent upon the Bohemian production. A sixteenth century chronicler once remarked: "The Bohemian lands produce much fruit and fine wines and other products of the soil. The Bohemian lands are known as the granary of Germany."

Directing attention to the mineral deposits of the country we are astounded by the abundance of natural resources. About one-half of the nearly every useful metal and mineral except salt, which is entirely absent. The tonnage yielded by the Bohemian collieries is of considerable importance, for it satisfies the requirements of the homes and of the domestic industries, while the surplus, which is large, is shipped in foreign markets.

The iron ore deposits of Bohemia are extensive and are one of the most valuable of its natural resources. About one-half of the yearly production is smelted in local furnaces for domestic uses, while the balance is sold. Gold, granite, wolframite, a source of tungsten, silver, tin and uranium, a very rare mineral, are found in limited quantities, but even these answer the country's demands.

The famous Stoudl Works of Pilsen, which has been the corner stone of the Bohemian ore



AMERICANS in the FIELD WHEN PEACE CAME

MEN OF THE 58th INFANTRY FIRING A LAST SHOT

PRIVATE A.S. COLLINS IN A HUN SHELTER

A BABY TANK IN REPOSE

MEN OF THE 114th INFANTRY ON PATROL

"HELENE" A FRENCH PEACEMAKER

into field pieces for the Austria-Hungarian and German armies, and it is well to remember that these shops were operated exclusively during the present war by German mechanics, who hereafter devote their energies to the production of industrially useful machinery. The same is true of the extensive machine shops of Prague. Thus the foremost domestic industry is supplied with raw materials from its own lands, an advantage of very considerable economic value, which, in turn, will furnish machinery to local industries.

Economists throughout the world are focusing their attention to the subject of conserving the forests and for providing from them a satisfactory timber supply. The range of the Bohemian forests equals about thirty per cent of the existing forests of the world, one of which the country may well be proud. From the existing forests the supply of lumber will be equal to the necessary demand for years to come because they are under scientific management.

The Czechoslovaks are a musical people, though their folk songs and national music are primitive, due, undoubtedly, to the ages long and severe bondage. The instrumental music, both chamber and peripatetic, was almost exclusively instruments fashioned by the most skilled mechanics and persons competent to judge pronounce them to be of a superior quality.

In the manufacturing field the Bohemian output maintains a position second to none.

TRANSFUSION OF BLOOD A WAR WONDER

One of the many wonders of the war (now happily past) has been the increasing employment of transfusion of blood to save severely wounded men.

In the great casualty clearing stations, says the London Daily Mail, may be seen vessels containing a supply of human blood for the noble purpose. The blood is freely given or men at the front, who find that they are one of the worst for the loss of it, and are technically known as "donors."

A full account of the methods employed to give in Moscow, Warsaw & Prague's "Surgery at a Casualty Clearing Station" (Black, 1s. 6s. net), which is an intensely interesting book even for the lay reader.

Practical tests have shown that there are four distinct classes of blood, distinguished according to their coagulating properties. The wrong kind of blood may kill. But when the right kind is injected the dying man returns to life.

by itself. It is one of the country's main exports.

Porcelain and pottery works are numerous and their products are excellent. The factories of Carlsbad are justly famous and they supply the external markets. The large shoe factories turn out footwear that compares favorably with the standards of the world. Lace making is an ancient industry which has been brought to a very high degree of perfection.

The lace made by the Bohemian women are famous and are much in demand. In the past these have been sold into foreign countries, there released as the importing country's domestic product and sold at fancy prices to those who knew better, but ceased lace made in any country other than Bohemia.

The textile industry of the Lower Elbe is a very important factor in the life of Bohemia. Before the war more than four hundred thousand persons earned their livelihood in the numerous mills. The value of the annual output was in excess of \$14,000,000. The cotton required for the spinners almost all was imported from the United States and yearly exported from the United States and yearly imported from the United States and yearly imported from the United States.

The world-famed health resorts and springs mineral and healing, of Carlsbad, Teplitz and Marienbad, are located in Bohemia. Tourists and those seeking relief from various ailments flocked to these resorts, believing they were pure German institutions. Their vaults were entered to their inmates were satisfied, for all business settings, language and customs were German. When the scars of the war were healed these resorts will enjoy greater popularity and will be conducted as the Bohemian institutions. Others equally important but less

known are at Joachimstahl, Piatany and Luhovice.

The railroads of Bohemia are extensive, their trackage is far in excess of four thousand miles, and they place the republic in the front ranks of transportation nations of Europe. The roads are well equipped, though now possibly run down, and are kept in a high state of operating efficiency. The telephone and telegraph systems are equally well developed and maintained.

The highways of Bohemia are excellent, and criss-cross the country, connecting important cities. They are suitable for pleasure as well as commercial transportation. Their mileage proportionately exceeds that of any lands of the former dual monarchy.

The single waterway of Bohemia, with an outlet to the sea, is the River Elbe. For its greater distance it runs through German territory; hence it may not be a favorable means of communication. It is a shallow stream suitable only for river craft of light draught.

The other rivers of the country are negligible. In the past the Czechoslovak lands and peoples were engaged mainly in agriculture. In the latter half of the nineteenth century they turned some of their energies to manufacturing industries. Thus the country is now both agricultural and industrial. What other community of the same size and the same population can boast of such favorable conditions?

The Czechoslovak lands are wealth producers. They are able to contribute to the world's scientific knowledge, which is the basis of the world's industries. The more rapidly we can unlock the secrets of nature the greater will be the output of industry and the more plentiful the stream of comforts and benefits flowing into the homes of the people. But back of all—back of the Czechoslovak lands—their energy and hope and a longing for prosperity.

What, then, is the position of Bohemia in the economic field? Her production of agricultural and industrial necessities is abundant. It meets her people's necessary requirements with immense surpluses for export to other lands which are dependent upon the Bohemian excess to supplement their meagre production. These countries require them, they must have them at the lowest possible cost, and this is best accomplished by utilizing the Bohemian products.

In the manufacturing field the rejuvenated state is not dependent on foreign raw material markets except in some very exceptional instances. One of these—rather an important one—is cotton. For this commodity it depends upon the United States, which hitherto furnished it and, no doubt, will again. Truly, as Goethe stated, Bohemia is a continent within the continent of Europe.

During the period of hostilities just closed the Czechoslovaks absolutely refused to, and in fact did not, cultivate the Bohemian fields because they have done so would have aided the enemy. If they did raise any crops they were immediately appropriated by the Austro-Hungarian or German authorities. Everything of value belonging to the people has been seized or confiscated. Now the people are as poor as the proverbial church mouse—in fact, destitute. They are a desperate people. They will secure live stock, destroy their hogs and needs for spring planting, and retrieve their former industries. The United States has willingly lent a helping hand by making advances to the new state, through the Treasury Department, for the purchase of these necessities and of additional food in the American markets to tide over the people until their new crops are harvested.

The prejudices against Czechoslovakia, Bohemia and Bohemia will disappear, for these were purely mythical and imaginary—they are unwarranted. The republic and her people will take their rightful place among the nations of the world. Their products and manufactures will find ready and welcome markets.

With the separation of the Czechoslovak lands from the dual monarchy the heretofore enormous external taxation will cease and will relieve the lands of heavy burdens. The new government will assume its proportionate share of the pre-war debt; but it will not and it ought not to be asked to assume any portion of the war debt, for it was contracted against the express wishes and in face of futile protests of the Czechoslovakia. With her most favorable economic position, with a democratic government founded on justice, what other European country may anticipate so bright a future?

A Prime Necessity for Her Is the Friendship of Neighbors, So

Writes E. F. Prantner.

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Petrograd Like a Tomb

Ludovic Raudenau, correspondent of the Temps, writes from Petrograd that that once gay and lively city is now like a tomb. There are few people seen in the streets, and they pass like weird shapes, sad, depressed and silent.

"The Nevsky Prospect," says Mr. Raudenau, "is practically deserted and resembles one of a theatre after the curtain has been rung down and the audience has gone home. Miserable strolls everywhere and hunger has left its mark on the faces of the people. Encamped around the Winter Palace are hundreds of pedlars, who offer their scant wares appealingly.

"Any man who can manage to get some sugar, some chocolate or a few eggs immediately sets up a little stand on the street and tries to sell them at the best price he can get. A little lump of sugar costs one ruble, an egg 1.20 ruble and chocolate is 40 rubles a pound. A little piece of bread which can be eaten with one swallow costs 1 ruble. A half a pound of bread is allowed a family per day, and how some poor people manage even to procure that little bread is a mystery. Wealthy people are the only persons that can buy flour, which is now at the amazing price of 200 rubles a pound. Many of the wealthy families are selling their bric-a-brac, paintings, rugs and other luxuries for what they can get for them in order to have money on hand to buy food.

Numerous vacant stores have been rented for the purpose and daily there are auctions of fine furniture and art objects. Tobacco cannot be purchased at all, and cigar and cigarette dealers have long since closed up their business. Miser and hunger are everywhere seen in the streets, and laughter and music in this once gay city are stilled.

Fishing in Broadway, New York

Broadway between Herald square and Long-acre square has a new amusement. In almost every block groups of persons, mostly men, with time on their hands, may be seen surrounding a couple or more of urchins, trying flat on their stomachs—fishing.

It's a fact. The fishing, however, is not for fish, but for money. Since the subway was constructed in Broadway coils of all denominations have been lost through the gratings that cover the ventilators on the edge of the sidewalks. The irrepressible New York snob was quick to grasp the opportunity, and every day in couples and squads he marches up and down, vigorously cleaning gravel and peering through the gratings for treasures to be won. When a coin or other article is located the boys throw themselves flat on the gratings and set to work. This is their modus operandi.

A ball of twine is attached to a small flat stone. The bottom part of the stone is covered with a layer of chewing gum, which the boy takes out of his mouth. Then the ball is dropped through the grating, and—lowered until it rests on the article sought.

Verify the boy draws up the coil and quickly pockets the coin or whatever it may be. Sometimes valuable pieces of jewelry are fished up by the lads and if any inquisitive bystander tries to claim it or interfere the boys vanish quickly. The sport furnishes a lot of amusement to laddered business men.