

do not concern us, and in which we will have no part."

The reactionary press is more reserved, bitter, and unintelligent. For instance, the Berlin "Deutsche Tages-Zeitung" declares:

The Message seems a distinct disappointment to the French policy, first because it rejects the League of Nations; second, because it does not accept the Treaty as a whole, but only in so far as separate American

interests are concerned; third, because it practically ends the state of war between Germany and America. This is the unkindest cut of all to France, because she had hoped that Harding would do her the favor to refrain, at least at this moment, from any distinct definition of the American attitude on that point.

CONCLUSION

Thus, we see, the foreign policy enun-

ciated in the President's Message was an announcement not only to America, but to the world. We may conclude, with the "London Times:" "President Harding refused, as most Englishmen always felt confident the American people would refuse, to believe that America, after playing a part in the war, can retire into a state of self-centered isolation after the war and wash its hands of its consequences."

NEW COMMISSIONERS

THOUGH not ranking as high as Cabinet positions, several of the commissionerships to which the President makes appointments affect the welfare and happiness of individuals quite as directly and certainly. It is of some concern to the whole Nation, therefore, that the men chosen to these places should be experienced and competent. Recently several of these positions have been filled by Presidential appointment.

Since the American people are an inventive people, it is of great importance that the Patent Office, which secures to inventors their rights to their inventions, be administered efficiently. The new Commissioner of Patents is Thomas E. Robertson. He has been a practicing patent attorney in Washington for about thirty years. He is forty-nine years old and in the full vigor of a large practice. He has been President of the Patent Law Association, composed of the representative patent attorneys of the country; they usually hold their convention in connection with that of the American Bar Association. The Patent Office has had great difficulty in keeping competent men at Government remuneration; the men should have ample compensation. When Mr. Robertson was sworn in the other day, he announced his policy of maintaining efficiency in the conduct of his office.

In the United States, though not a part of the Nation, are between two and three hundred thousand Indians. To a very large degree their happiness depends upon the honest, intelligent, humane, and competent conduct of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. For a Commissioner of Indian Affairs, at the head of that Bureau, the President selected from a great number of applicants Charles H. Burke, a lawyer and real-estate man of Pierre, South Dakota. He served in the State Legislature and was also Representative in Congress for several terms. He became Chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs and is supposed to have expert knowledge on that subject. He is considered a good executive.

Prisoners in the custody of the United States Government may have forfeited their right to comfort and convenience, but not their right to justice and the most intelligent treatment. These individuals and their families are affected by the policies and methods of the Superintendent of Prisons under the Department of Justice. He is now to be the Rev. Herbert Votaw. For a long time Mr. Votaw served as missionary in India, and has latterly lived at Takoma Park, a suburb of Washington. He is a Seventh Day Adventist. His wife is a sister of Mrs. Harding. The responsibility for his appointment was assumed

by the Attorney-General, doubtless out of consideration for the President. Mr. Votaw will have charge, under the Attorney-General, of all matters relating to United States prisons and prisoners, including the support of such prisoners in both State and Federal penitentiaries, in reform schools, and in county jails. He will also have supervision over the construction work in progress in United States penal institutions. Finally, he is President of the Board of Parole.

Affecting directly the welfare of fewer individuals by far than the Commissioners of Patents and of Indian Affairs and Superintendent of Prisons, but affecting the efficiency of one of the greatest business enterprises of the Government, is the Public Printer. The appointment, from a large field of candidates, of George A. Carter for this position is a fine example of the recognition of efficiency. For several years Mr. Carter has been Secretary of the Joint Congressional Committee on Printing, of which Senator Smoot is Chairman. This Committee directs the publication of the Congressional Documents, including the Record, the Congressional Directory, the Committee Reports, etc. During the past few years the Joint Committee has directed its attention to correcting various evils in the over-production of such printing.

IN HAPSBURG LAND

CABLE CORRESPONDENCE FROM AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY

LIKE Russia, Austria is a political experimental laboratory. The cost is borne mostly by the experimenters. The rest of the world can learn a lot if it wants to.

If we wish to know about food control, Austria dictates the price at which bread shall be sold. She buys wheat at the market price, sells to the bakers at a great loss, and finishes a year with a deficit for this item about equal to one-half her entire revenues. Do we want to know about housing? Austria maintains the pre-war rental rates, but the value of her paper money has fallen so that a landlord who was formerly receiving one hundred dollars a month is now getting only seventy-five cents a month for his property. Before the war

five Austrian crowns equaled a dollar; now it takes seven hundred of them. Figure it for yourself. Shall we investigate railway control? Austria can tell you all about it. She has lost in one year eleven billion crowns—an amount equal to two-fifths of her total revenues—but she makes a passenger rate as low as six cents for one hundred miles. Her highest *de luxe* train fare is one-half a cent a mile. How large an annual deficit dare a government incur? Austria dares to the tune of seventy-one billion crowns expended, with revenues totaling twenty-nine billions. Do you ask about the amount of paper money in circulation and their gold reserve? The first is ninety-two billion crowns, the second about one-third of

one per cent of it. The result of all this is just short of chaos.

Thousands have come to Vienna, where they can live in a splendid capital for one-fourth what it would cost in London or Paris. Other thousands have come here to trade in fluctuating money exchange and such commercial business as comes their way. The result is that you can hunt a room from one hotel to another for hours, and when you finally secure one, as I did, it costs only 22 cents a day. The crown is cheap only when measured in foreign money. To the native Austrian the prices are high and the crowns hard to get, so we find a horde of beggars and a much greater number of people who are on their last legs in every sense of the word—over-

worked, underclothed, underfed—but are still carrying on. One gets a new conception of human endurance.

The children need help, but they are not the worst part of the picture by any means. The Government only reports fifteen thousand unemployed, who draw from 60 to 70 crowns a day, but it takes about 200 crowns to sustain a meager existence, for that is only 30 cents a day in our money. Those who are trying desperately to exist and find odd jobs are not considered unemployed.

The life of Vienna is brilliant at the top, but not functioning at the bottom. There are autos for the rich and taxies to take people to the scores of theaters and movies, which are always well filled or crowded, but there is not enough transportation for the necessities; so people go out miles into the country and bring back wood, potatoes, and meat on their backs.

Yes, there are horses, but not enough. I saw a splendid team hauling a brewer's wagon loaded with kegs of beer. Beer is two cents a glass, and plenty of it is drunk. You ask where do the people get money to go to the movies and drink beer? There are two million people in Vienna—about the same as before the war. One-fourth is rich or reasonably prosperous, including those skilled workmen who are fairly well employed and paid; another fourth is living in the twilight of misery; the remaining half is clutching at the skirts of the first while feeling themselves sinking down toward the lowest.

As in Germany, the cost of living is about one-half what it is in America; but, while the ordinary workman in Germany gets one-fourth the pay of our workmen, in Austria the common laborer gets about seven dollars a month, or one-tenth of what such a man earns in the United States.

This Socialistic Government followed the revolution. After the armistice they found the crown worth about ten cents. With the best intentions in the world, they went into ownership or control of so many things that they ran behind at once. They are now hopelessly entangled. In Austria, as in Germany, the working classes get the worst of it, thus proving what has been said so many times—that experimenting with a nation's finances is especially perilous to people of small means. The Government has gone too far to retrace its steps. If it drops food control, the prices will go up and there will be a revolution. It has no power to equalize wages to a new cost of living. If it discharges surplus public employees, there will be several hundred thousand at the point of starvation. That too will cause a revolt. In other words, this present Government would be put out of power if it were to reform, so it drifts along toward Niagara. Even the coolest heads are unable to suggest a remedy except a loan from America. That seems to be impossible, but should it be arranged, it would only postpone the smashup.

There is food in Vienna and enough wealth to take reasonable care of the

underfed and underclothed; but it should not be spent at the same time for imported jewelry, furs, gasoline, or native liquor made out of grain that could be devoted to better uses in these tragic times. The wealthy, however, whether native or foreign, have only a slight interest in alleviating misery.

The Jew will have to bear a good deal of responsibility for this condition of things. He has always been good to his family, good to his tribe, and more or less cruel to all others. When the war commenced, many Jews fled from Galicia to Vienna. They came as refugees, but stayed as profiteers. They helped each other to do every one else. I asked an ex-soldier if they were not forced into the army. "Not much," he said; "they were tried, but they were no good, they were always trying to make business." Another reported that they would leave the ranks in battle and peddle cigarettes, which they had concealed on their persons. We must understand that the anti-Semitic feeling in parts of Europe is very strong, and is based on contact at short range with certain people who make a god of money and who deny the theory of giving your neighbor a square deal, as laid down by the great Jew of Nazareth. Whenever they will practice the Golden Rule, opposition to Jews as a race will cease.

I was discussing Austria's plight with two prominent men of Vienna. They called on me for suggestions. I asked if they would sell the contents of one of their many art museums. They said they would die first. This shows that they are either exaggerating their troubles or are preferring oil paintings to children. They have tens of thousands of very valuable things. Why not regard them as a financial surplus to be drawn on when necessary? Anyway, they should be able to appreciate the cry of France at the wholesale destruction of so much of her art and architecture by the Boche.

When they complain that their coal has been given to Czechoslovakia and their agricultural area to others, I ask why they don't try to join themselves to Italy or Switzerland; but they only want to go to Germany. One man said: "We need the German whip. If they own us, they will make us sorry, but it will be better for us."

Austria and Hungary still have great resources. They have not been punished as losers in the Great War. The old Empire has been divided into four more or less natural parts. There are no visible war scars and no indemnities that are important. They all went into the war with flags flying. They now protest that they—the Bohemians, the Hungarians, the Croats—hated the war and were the first to quit. It looks as though their punishment has been like mine when as a schoolboy I was made to sit with the girls. I didn't like it; I tried to look defiant; the other boys made faces, the girls fluttered; but it was all forgotten the next day. It was not punishment. The problems of

government finance, which one studies generally as a complicated puzzle, seem easy to understand in Austria. She has had too many expenses and not enough income. She has signed notes until no one wants them any more; she can hardly give them away.

After spending ten days in Vienna compiling data, I ran over to Budapest to look at the balance-sheet of the Hungarian Government. It is also easily understood. I had heard that their paper crown was worth, six months ago, as little as the Austrian crown; now it is worth over twice as much. Why? Simply because they have reduced their expenses and increased their Government income, increasing confidence at the same time.

The Secretary of the Treasury is reported to have said that they paid their way in March, so no more paper money would be printed. The amount of paper money in circulation is also in their favor; they have not half as many promises out as Austria. As Hungary is about the same size as Austria, we can attribute her better financial showing only to better management. If Hungary has intelligence enough to support the present financial policy of her Secretary, Roland Hegedus, and if he sticks to his course, Hungary will be saved from further revolutions.

I was in Budapest when King Charles made his sensational appearance. No one knew he was coming and no one was glad to see him. The newspapers of Budapest condemned him and those in office were in an uproar. Cartoons were published ridiculing the whole proceedings. It seems he spent one night in Vienna. The city did not relish having a Hapsburger in its midst again.

Budapest has a good deal to say about the Bolshevik Bela Kun. He carried on such a reign of terror in Hungary that no one now dares mention Communism favorably. The people were glad to get rid of the nightmare. The landowners seem to be making use of the anti-Soviet sentiment for their own benefit. A semi-official report states that in 1913 one hundred and twenty-eight men owned thirty-four per cent of the area of Hungary. At the present time they are not paying large taxes and they are not selling land to small farmers.

Landlordism is a Hungarian issue. It seems to account for the long lines of people in Budapest waiting before the office of the American Consul to get passports to America. I looked the line over carefully. There were over two hundred waiting. I could see no possible benefit the United States could get out of their coming. We cannot put up temporary immigration bars too quickly.

I don't care what the statistics of arrivals in New York may show to date, I know the showing will be big enough later on. One can hardly get into an American consul's office in Italy or Hungary or Austria, the crowds around the doors are so great.

W. C. GREGG.