

HAPSBURG'S FALL IS BRIGHT SPOT IN AUSTRIAN TRAGEDY

Can Never Be Restored, Declares
Karl Seitz, Leader of Socialists
—Entente Loan is Needed

The only bright spot in the "tragedy of Austria," was the release of the country from the Hapsburg autocracy, which could never be restored, declared Karl Seitz, leader of the German Socialists in Austria and president of the National Assembly of German Austria, in an interview given in Vienna.

The fate of German Austria was especially tragic, he said, because she had been accused wrongfully of kindling the war. History would prove, he declared, that the German-Austrians had no expansive aspirations against the Slavs, and always had opposed the action which started the war. No country in the world, Herr Seitz asserted, had suffered such brutality and persecution at the hands of the military class as had German Austria.

A federation of nations comprising former Austria-Hungary, perhaps, would be desirable in the interests of capitalists, Herr Seitz continued, but such a thing was impossible for a long time, not only because the Czech-Slovaks now are fighting against the Germans, but owing to the insuperable difficulties of arrangement of common customs, taxation, financial and traffic systems, and say nothing of the difficulty of language.

Austria, however, cannot exist alone because of her geographical position, and because the arteries of traffic unite her with South Germany and thence with all of Germany upon whom



Austria, owing to her needs for coal and capital, is dependent for her restoration. The German-Austrian Republic which had not yet been recognized by the Entente as an independent state, Herr Seitz declared, was faced with the greatest difficulties concerning food supply, raw material and capital. It would hardly be possible to maintain this state economically without a loan from the Entente.

Herr Seitz contended that the smoothness and order with which the revolution in Austria had been achieved, had done much to restrain the spread of Bolshevism in Germany.

Entente subjects who had remained in Austria throughout the war had, he said, suffered no ill-treatment from the people of German-Austria, who had no hatred against England, France or America. Herr Seitz expressed hope that with the conclusion of peace any hatred against the Germans in Austria would cease.

THE DEPOSED SOVEREIGN
All Gold Coins in Britain Required in National Interest.

There is disappointment in store for those people who are looking forward to the return of the golden sovereign with the war over. They will be required in the national interests, to continue to use "brassbrats" for some time to come.

It is proposed that all the gold coins in the country shall be scooped up, as it were, into the Bank of England; and a body of financial experts appointed by the government to advise on the after-war problems suggest that all banks shall transfer any gold now held by them to Threadneedle street.

Before the war the Bank of England had about \$8,000,000 in gold in its reserve coffers, and there were another 125,000,000 in the hands of the public. It is suggested that for the purposes of foreign trade and for the needs of our reconstruction period an effort should be made to concentrate at least 150,000,000.—Tit-Bits.

THE RAVEN'S WARNING.
Tradition has it that all the calamities which dog the footsteps of the ill-fated Austrian royal family are foreshadowed by the appearance of a raven.

When the Archduke Maximilian departed for Mexico—and execution—a raven followed him on the path; and when the Archduchess Christina left for her unhappy life in Spain a raven hovered over the carriage.

A whole flight of ravens is said to have hovered over the crowning of the late Francis Joseph, and one of the ill-omened birds dashed a posch from the hand of the Empress Elizabeth the day before she was murdered at Geneva.—Tit-Bits.

Big Programme In Playground Work for 1919

The Playgrounds Association will this year ask the city council to restore its former grant of \$4,000. To enlarge the scope of its work, secure unity of control of all the public playgrounds, and to secure if possible a better home for the Boys' Club are features of the 1919 programme.

The monthly meeting of the executive was held last evening, with the president, A. M. Bedding, in the chair. Mayor Hayes was among the members present. It was pointed out by H. H. McEllan that they had to improvise some temporary equipment at the Aberdeen playground last year, because money was scarce, and at least \$800 should be spent there next year. Other members said there was also need for improvement on some other grounds, and the chairman added that supervisors should be provided next summer for the new South End and West End grounds and Victoria square, and if possible a neighborhood playground should be secured near the Marsh bridge. After a general discussion it was decided to ask the city council to increase the grant from \$2,500 to the \$4,000 given before the war.

H. H. McEllan, Mayor Hayes, Capt. Mulcahy, R. S. Ritchie and the chairman were appointed a committee to consider the question of a better home for the Boys' Club next winter.

The chairman brought up the question of unity of control of all playgrounds. The ideal plan would perhaps be city control under a director of recreation appointed by the city council, but if that were not at present practicable the control might be vested in the Playgrounds Association, subject to approval of its policy by the commissioner of parks and playgrounds, who with the mayor, is a member of the board.

Mayor Hayes, in the course of his talk about funds for various causes, made a very interesting suggestion. He pointed out that there would be no more Red Cross drives, and that the same would probably be true of several other organizations which had conducted great drives for war purposes, raising very large amounts of money. Would it not be possible, say next fall, to find out exactly how much money would be required for all these local welfare organizations for which grants are now asked, and make one big drive to cover the total. He was sure the citizens would be glad to contribute, and it would increase their interest in the work, and at the same time obviate the necessity

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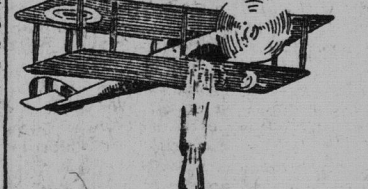
of making so many separate appeals heartily endorsed by several of the mem- during the year. The mayor's view was bers in the discussion that followed.

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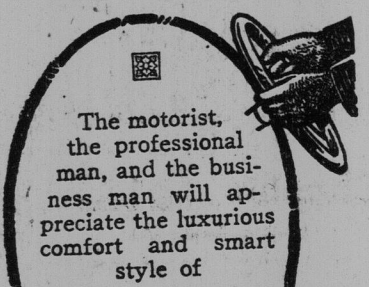


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