ITALIAN FARM LABOR TURNS TO SOCIALISM

Get Best of Terms in Leases With Central Italy Land Owners.

DOUBT PROMISES OF THE GOVERNMENT

Movement Being Made in Maremme to Develop Rural District for Agriculture.

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Florence, Sept. 10—While the organized labor of Italy is making its great effort to "sovietize" all industries into workmen's co-operative societies, the peasantry is making similar advances against land owners and particularly in Central Italy where groups of farmers have invaded thousands of acres of uncultivated land in Campagna Romano for development along the Communist lines. Toward Ancona, on the east coast, peasants have formed leagues and have bought land with large traces of rent, and also farms of fellow peasants.

The movement is to improve conditions among the farmers, according to prominent officials who have studied the farm situation and who say the Italian peasants were first aroused by the Socialist party and its opponent, the Popular party.

Flirt With Farmers' Vote.

Both parties flirted with the farmers' votes by extravagant promises, and when all was settled down to plain results it was found that the demands urged by the Popular party, which constitutes the Catholic groups in Rome, were declared by land owners to be only a scheme for giving the peasants ultimate possession of the land.

In Tuscany, one of the best cultivated regions in Italy, land owners have made settled terms with the peasants of the Socialist party which give the radical benefits to the farmers. But they say it is impossible to meet the terms of the peasants of the Popular party as the terms would give the peasant not only voice in the management of the farms, but at the same time empower the farmer to contract for all kinds of improvements at the owners' expense. The idea behind this is that the farmers could take out mortgages on the land as security against the improvements and if such arrangements were agreed upon it would be only a matter of time when the peasant would have the controlling mortgages.

Farmers Doubt Promises.

It was explained that the Tuscan farmers are beginning to realize that the rosy promises of the Popular party will never come true and many are swinging to the Socialist party. The agreement between the Socialist party and the land owners gives the peasant one-half of all the produce. The owners pay for the copper sulphate necessary for the grape-producing soil and also furnish the fertilizer and pay for part of the cost of the farm implements based on a ratio of the number of acres on the farm. The peasant has 600 square meters for his private gardens and family needs and he has also one or two pigs out of the farm stock for his own use. The contract must be made out for three years and the peasant has recourse to a special court for complaints against the owner.

Small Share for Landlord.

The landlord pays the taxes, and after all personal allowances are taken from the production the farm owner gets one-half of what is left in produce. That is the summary of the contract now in force in most of all well-regulated farming districts.

Prior to the war the peasants had verbal agreements and many families lived on the same ground for centuries. The land was divided up into tracts called "podee," which vary in size according to the family of the peasant.

Westward from Florence there have been many recent departures from the Popular party, and the farmers near Pistoia Pisa and Lucca have owned the "Red" party because the landlords will sign contracts, and they work in peace, although the landlord seems to have the little end of the horn. In many sections the peasants have used the funds paid to the general labor federation farm groups and bought cheap barren lands to prepare for cultivation and irrigation from mountain streams.

Movement to Develop Farms.

In Maremma there also has been a movement among the land owners to develop farms, build houses and increase the farm production under new contracts with the Socialists.

Near Rome, in the harsh Campagna district, the invasions of the peasants have been more or less an adventure, as the land needs a great amount of scientific treatment to get profitable production. Throughout all the countryside there are leagues of the Popular party urging farmers to quit in favor of virtual sovietizing the farms, but the farmers are beginning to ask wherefore it is a benefit.

Elections May Aid.

It is thought the elections this month will greatly strengthen the Socialist party among the farmers, as the Catholic party has promised too much and has given too little. It is pointed out that the farmers are the most prosperous of all classes. Toward the extreme south there is much poverty, although more real contentment, but the opinion of the leading Italians is that the farmers' problems will be settled amicably long before the industrial peace comes to cities in the north.

FIRE LOSS IN CANADA

Toronto, Sept. 10—Fire losses in Canada amounted to $1,857,800 in August, compared with $1,374,495 in the same month last year, according to the Monetary Times estimate. The totals for the first eight months of 1920 and of 1919 are $16,266,913 and $15,556,821 respectively, indicating that this year's figures will be ahead of that of last year.

SAVED THE DAY FOR HIM SAYS WALLACE

Was Unable to Hit a Lick of Work When He Began Taking Tanlac.

"I had quit my trade and wasn't able to do any work at all when I started taking Tanlac, but now I've picked up fifteen pounds and am in as good health as anybody," said Bernard Wallace, who resides five miles out from Regina, Sask. Mr. Wallace, a boilermaker by trade, was employed for many years by the Canadian Pacific Railway at St. John, N. B., where he resided at 104 Union Avenue.

"Five years ago," he continued, "I underwent an operation and after that I wasn't able to get back my strength. My stomach was left all upset and my appetite went back on me. It was over four months before I was able to go back to my old job, but I couldn't hold out at it then, and had to be put on special, light work. Even that got the best of me and I gradually went down hill. When quitting time came every day I was simply exhausted. I lost considerably in weight as I was eating just barely enough to keep me going. Sometimes just the sight or smell of anything to eat made me sick and I had cramps in my stomach that nearly doubled me up. Gas formed awful bad at night and I was often afraid to lie down for fear my breath would be shut off and I would smother.

"My nerves finally broke down and I got to having regular splitting headaches. Sleep was nearly out of the question, for it seemed to me that I rolled and tossed all night long every night of the week. I finally had to give up even the light work I was doing. Things looked so bad I had reached the conclusion that I might as well give up the fight.

"But Tanlac saved the day for me and in six weeks' time had put me back in such fine shape, that I don't believe I ever felt better before. Why, I had no idea anything could build anybody up so fast. I can sit down to the table and eat three of the biggest kind of meals every day and digest them as good as if I had never been bothered with stomach trouble in my life. My nerves are as steady as a clock and those headaches have all gone. I sleep like a top all night long, and when morning comes I am feeling great. I have picked up fifteen pounds, as I said, and as soon as the harvest season is over I am going back to my old trade as boiler-maker. In my opinion Tanlac is in a class by itself and is a medicine that everybody would do well to learn something about."

Tanlac is sold in St. John by Ross Drug Co., and F. W. Munro under the personal direction of a special Tanlac representative.—Advt.

"LEVIATHAN" LIKELY TO BE SCRAPPED

Washington, Sept. 10—The great trans-Atlantic liner Leviathan, formerly the Hamburg-American liner Vaterland, and a sister ship of the Imperator, the last named now in the regular trans-Atlantic service of the Cunard Line, may never again be seen on the high seas. This is due to the fact that the giant liner, now in the mud of her Hoboken dock, has deteriorated to so great an extent that it will require an outlay of no less than $8,000,000 to put her again into condition for sea service.

BETTERMENT OF RELATIONS IS EXPECTED

Election of Obregon in Mexico Will Stabilize Conditions, is Belief in Washington.

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F. W. WILE.

Washington, Sept. 10—With the election of General Alvaro Obregon to the presidency of Mexico, officials here are looking forward to a betterment of relations between Mexico and the United States. General Obregon's public speeches and statements regarding international affairs have been closely scrutinized by officials of the State Department, and it is known that these, his platform and all that he stands for indicate that American lives and property will be accorded protection and respect which is their due without in any way impairing the sovereignty of Mexico or belittling her dignity.

Every statement thus far made by Obregon is favorable for a fair deal to foreign interests, which is all that any of the governments whose nationals are interested in Mexico have ever asked for. It remains now only for Obregon to put into effect the distinct commitment he has made, according to the view of officials here, which he can do with full respect to Mexico's dignity and sovereignty.

Did Not Meddle.

The State Department has kept itself fully informed as to the source and motive, it was authoritatively stated today of much talk, characterized as irresponsible, to the effect that American interests, particularly oil interests, have been meddling in Mexican politics, the charge being made that American gold is being used to pacify Mexico. It was learned today that the department has no reason to believe, from detailed and extended reports, in spite of the newspaper campaign in certain parts of the country, that American interests, oil, mining or agricultural, are doing anything but complying with their obligations and that so long as this continues these interests are entitled to and will receive the protection to which they are entitled under the recognized usages of international law.

The situation was summarized today by a high official of the State Department as follows:

1. The American companies are legally and rightfully in Mexico at the invitation, often the expressed request, of the Mexican government.

2. That so far as the department knows, they are living up to their legal obligations; that despite idle rumors there is no worthy evidence of their departing from this line of conduct.

3 So long as the department feels that they are not engaged in any improper activities, they are entitled to, and will receive the protection that is their due in international practice.

It was noted that there is nothing to indicate that General Obregon can or will take any exception, or that the Mexican government would object to this. No nation of the world except Soviet Russia, with which Mexico does not wish to be compared, ever takes exception to another nation safeguarding the rights of its nationals in a foreign land, an official of the department said today, as long as these Nationals act within the principles of international law. Mexico herself had occasion to know this when she appealed to the United States for protection of Mexicans in this country who, through error or over-zealousness of local authorities, were caught in the draft net during the early days of the European war.

Funeral Held From Seamen's Institute

Remains of Reginald Bowen, Chief Steward of S. S. Manchester Merchant Interred Yesterday.

The funeral of Reginald Bowen, chief steward of the S.S. Manchester Merchant, of the Manchester Liners, Ltd., was held from the Seamen's Institute, yesterday afternoon, interment being in the Sailors lot in Fernhill.

Mr. Bowen was taken to the General Public Hospital from his ship on her last voyage to this port, the latter part of June and he died on Wednesday last from tuberculosis. Deceased, was with his company over seven years, and five years on the one ship. He was greatly respected by all who knew him, and by the company with whom he served, who saw to it that everything that could be done was accomplished to relieve his suffering. The company had made arrangements for his transportation to England, and had also a doctor in readiness to go with him.

The doctors and nurses of the hospital gave him every possible attention, but the dread disease had too deep a hold upon him. The service at the Seamen's Institute was conducted by the Rev. R. T. McKim assisted by his curate, Mr. Fuller, who read the commitment at the graveside.

The Furness-Withy Co., agents for the Manchester Lines was represented by David Ledingham, Mr Brey and Mr. Grey, the Navy League by R. E. Armstrong, president, and Capt. Mulcahey, vice-president; the Seamen's Institute by Mr. Brindle, Mrs. and Miss Goss; whilst Envoy and Mrs. Goodwin, of the Salvation Army, personal friends of the deceased, were also present. The casket was of polished oak with silver mountings and many floral tributes were placed upon it as it was carried from the building, including an anchor from the Navy League; a spray of pink roses from Furness-Withy; and one from the Seamen's Institute.

PARIS IS FACING TWO-DOLLAR STEAK

(Copyright, 1920, by Public Ledger.)

Paris, Sept. 10.—Parisians will be faced next spring by meat prices which will recall the market quotations in the Klondike during the gold rush if the cheerful prediction, made today by the Paris city councillor, Emile Desvaux, who has been investigating the situation, comes true.

Mr. Desvaux fears he errs on the side of the optimist in prophecying that the cost of a pound of beef steak in a few months will mount to ten francs, which under normal rates of exchange is $2.

The high price of forage and the scarcity of stock are the reasons he assigns for the rise in prices. He fears the high meat prices may cause the peasants to put the grain land into pasture for stock and thus in turn make bread dearer. He advocates larger importations of livestock from Canada.

Berlin, Sept. 10—The seismographic station at Jena suggests as the possible cause of the Italian earthquake a sinking of the earth along the mountains bordering the Gulf of Genoa. Experts there say it indicates a massive caving zone in the earth's crust.

HONOR HALIFAX ENGINEER

Ottawa, Sept. 10—The Civil Service Commission announces the appointment of Reginald H. Wood, as chief engineer, naval service, Halifax.

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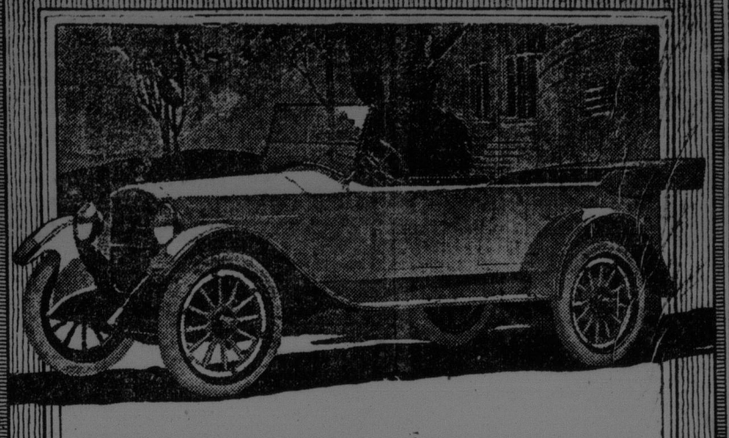

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