

This Week's EDITORIAL

The Tragic Case of Czechoslovakia
By Dr. Herbert A. Miller

It is difficult to understand why Czechoslovakia yielded so easily to the Russians, although it is generally admitted that she had no alternative. A republic, between the two wars, and during the brief period since the close of the last one, it was the most successful and progressive democracy in Europe. A liberal European refuge once said Czechoslovakia was the only country in Europe where a free soul felt at home. Its interests and culture are definitely Western. Before World War I more than a million and a half of its citizens had escaped German domination by emigrating to America. The ties between those at home and those abroad have always been close.

There are three reasons for the ties with Russia: first, economic relations; second, linguistic kinship; third, a very serious and practical experience: At the beginning of the last World War when Hitler was threatening to invade Czechoslovakia, France repudiated her treaty, and England sold her down the river at Munich. In this crisis Russia offered to help them to fight Hitler. Benes refused the offer lest the West should misinterpret his decision. This experience has been remembered by the Czechs as evidence that no trust can be put in the West as a protection against the Germans with whom the Czechs have been in constant conflict for many centuries.

At the election two years ago the Communists cast 38 per cent of the votes. Under the multi-party system, the constitution required that the Communists, having the largest vote, should have the prime minister with a coalition cabinet. Much communization of industry had taken place, but always under democratic control. This control the communists broke two weeks ago by drastic methods.

Czechoslovakia is the only country in the Russian orbit that has solid organization, a very high educational level, and a highly efficient industrialization. Its traditions for centuries have been focused on getting independence. It had had it for only twenty years before the last war.

In Czech history are many great leaders of whom three are world figures: John Huss, the religious reformer, a century before Martin Luther; the Czechoslovak motto "Truth Conquers" was his. In 1630 Comenius, the great educator, who founded general education in Europe, especially in Czechoslovakia, which never sent any illiterate immigrants to America. He was also founder and bishop of the Moravian church, well known in Pennsylvania and North Carolina.

The came Thomas Masaryk, founder and first president of the late republic, who is generally recognized as the greatest European to emerge from the World War I. He was a professor of great learning, also the founder of a political party of which he was the only representative in the Austrian parliament. He was zealous in his attacks on old forms of cant and established himself as the incorruptible leader of his people, whom everyone, even those who opposed him, trusted.

Shortly after the beginning of the last war, he and a young man named Benes decided that the time had come to fight for independence from Austria. Masaryk went to Switzerland, London, and Austria. In Russia he organized the Czechoslovak army out of voluntary prisoners from the Austrian army. Eventually he came to America. In every country he won the confidence of leading statesmen and journalists, and the Czech cause won universal sympathy.

At the close of the war he returned to Prague where he was the loved president from the age of 70 to 87. During the time from the beginning of the revolt against Austria he worked in the closest cooperation with Benes. During Masaryk's administration Benes was foreign minister and one of the strongest men in the League of Nations. He succeeded Masaryk as president.

When Hitler entered the country, Benes yielded to the surrender in the hope of averting a general war. Now for the second time he has yielded in the hope of retaining some of the elements of a democratic government. It remains to be seen whether this sturdy people will be as digestible in the Russian mow as the others who have been absorbed.

News From Swannanoa

About twenty young people and some older members represented Swannanoa Missionary Baptist church Sunday night at the Buckeye Baptist church intermediate department of a training union program.

CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARIES

Mrs. Flora Jenkins, celebrating her thirteenth birthday, was 52 years old, February 29.

Jewel Anders, who has had three birthdays, was twelve on February 29.

Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Jenkins celebrated their third wedding anniversary February 20.

VISITS DAUGHTER

Julius Lavender of Old Fort visited his daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Howie last weekend.

MOVE

J. C. and David Drake will move into their new home in Davidson Cove soon.

—Charlie Morgan, Will Duckett, Mrs. Jim Adams, Mrs. Lucy Brooks, Floyd, Loyn and Wyona Howie have been ill the past week.

LOOK WHO'S HERE

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. H. E. McKinney of Grove-mont at Mission hospital, February 15.

ATTENDS WEDDING IN S. C.

Mrs. W. H. McMurray, Jr., returned to her home from Rock Hill, S. C., where she attended the wedding of Miss Martha Hollis and Edgar Williams. She spent the week-end at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Martin Gary, Spantenburg, S. C., with Mis Banna Martin.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMAN'S AUXILIARY MEETS

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Swannanoa Presbyterian church met Monday afternoon at the home of Mrs. T. J. Hunter. Mrs. Arnold Whitt conducted the meeting.

The following officers were elected for the next two years: president, Mrs. T. J. Hunter; vice-president, Mrs. Arnold Whitt; spiritual life sec., Mrs. D. W. Harrison, Sr.; Foreign missions sec., Mrs. Carrie Porter; home mission sec., Mrs. T. A. Painter; Christian social service sec., Mrs. Paul Patton. Mrs. W. H. McMurray gave the program on "Faith".

A social hour was enjoyed and refreshments were served by members of Circle No. 1. Twenty-four members and guests attended.

MRS. W. E. BURNETTE HOSTESS TO CHRISTIAN CHURCH OFFICIALS

Officials of the Bee Tree Christian church held their monthly board meeting with Mrs. W. E. Burnette, Sr., Friday, February 20.

Mrs. Talmadge Burnette assisted in serving a delicious supper, followed by a private business session of the board.

Officials and guests present were Mr. and Mrs. Talmadge Burnette and sons, Talmadge Jr., and Richard; Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge Coggins, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Burnette and children Dorothy and David; Mr. and Mrs. Lennie Bartlett, Mr. and Mrs. Bradford Burnette, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Adams, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bartlett, and Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Burnette, Sr.

VISIT IN FLORIDA

Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Freeman and Earl McCall left February 16 for a visit to Lakeland, Fla. They will stop enroute to visit Mr. McCall's son Billy and family who live in Americas, Ga.

HOME FROM COLLEGE

Miss Barbara Ward spent the week end recently at the home of her parents, Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Ward.

VISITS DURHAM, RALEIGH

Wilbur Ward spent the week-end in Durham and Raleigh.

BERNICE FARMER VISITS MR. AND MRS. SRYGLEY

Bernice Farmer of Charlotte, N. C., spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Srygley of Grove-mont.

—Hiawatha Waldrop spent Tuesday night with Bennie Jean Srygley.

—Mr. and Mrs. Hary W. Noyes of Westminster, S. C., spent last weekend visiting Dr. and Mrs. H. R. Miller.

—Mrs. Gilbert Morgan entertained with a birthday dinner for her son Floyd, February 19, at their home. Present for the dinner were the honoree and his family; Mr. and Mrs. Claude McMahon, and Mr. and Mrs. Morgan.

—Dr. Marshall Mott preached services Sunday morning at the Swannanoa Missionary Baptist church The Rev. Mr. Jolly was absent because of illness.

—Mrs. J. W. Brown, member of

the faculty of Swannanoa high school, who has been absent because of illness resumed her class room duties last Monday morning. —Jack Smith, superintendent of Beacon Manufacturing company Swannanoa, is ill in Mission hospital.

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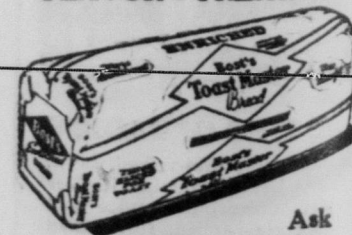
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