

all of them, including the Bohemians, will retire to their own countries, respectively.

The ominous significance of this declaration for Austria is that the Allies have thus pronounced their determination to sever Bohemia and Moravia from her territory and erect them into an absolutely independent State. One almost certain collateral result will be the prompt decision of the Poles and those of Russia into one consolidated Republic, which will be sufficiently powerful to render both Austria and Hungary powerless to interfere with it. A third is a general uprising of the southern Slavs into a consolidated State quite as powerful to check Austria and Hungary on the south as Bohemia and Poland on the north. If Italy can secure the Trent and Trieste sections of Austria there will be little of that country left for the Hapsburgs.

THE NEW CZECHO-SLOVAK NATION.

The full significance of the recent British Government's "declaration formally recognizing the Czecho-Slovaks as an Allied nation" may be realized only by reading it in the light of many years of Bohemian history. By the term "Czecho-Slovaks" are meant the people of Slavic race in Bohemia and Moravia, amounting now in number to about six and a half millions. There are other Slavic peoples in Austria—Serbians, Bosnians, Croatians, and Montenegrins in the south, and Polish, Slovenians, and Ruthenians in the north—but with these the Czecho-Slovaks have never had any close political affiliation, either before they came under Austrian domination or since. The declaration above cited has not to do with any other Slavs than those specifically mentioned in it.

When the war broke out, four years ago, the people of Bohemia and Moravia had to serve in the Austro-Hungarian armies, like other Imperial citizens, for the course of the campaign against Russia. Many of the Czecho-Slovaks were taken as prisoners by the Russians and were sent as captives to Siberia. There is good reason to believe that they fought for Germany's interest unwillingly, and thousands of them have risen against the Bolsheviki Russian Government, which, probably at Germany's instigation, denied them the right to return to their homes in Bohemia. There are three armies of them fighting in different parts of the former Russian Empire, and in the British "declaration" each of the three is recognized as "an Allied force regularly waging warfare against the Central powers."

The immediate effect of this double-barreled declaration is, under international law, to recognize the independence of Bohemia and Moravia as a political "State," with the "Czecho-Slovak National Council" as its Provisional Government, to exercise supreme authority over this new "Allied and belligerent army." The immediate purpose of the joint Allied expedition to Siberia is to supply the Czecho-Slovak armies there with munitions, food, clothing, and a transportation service so that they may be able to render prompt and effective aid to the Allied cause in Russia, and thus allow the Russian people to reorganize their own territory by driving out the Bolsheviki and substituting for their administration one better adapted to restore national prestige and develop a humanitarian civilization. It is quite certain that, after the Allies have done this,