

CZECHO-SLOVAKS STRONG IN CANADA FOUGHT IN ARMY

Preparing to Celebrate the Re-establishment of Free Nation

Washington, Nov. 2.—Czecho-Slovaks in Canada are preparing to celebrate the re-establishment of a free Czecho-Slovak nation, after three hundred years of enforced submission to Teutonic rule. The recognition of the Entente allies of their national aspirations was confirmed in the recent reply sent by President Wilson to the peace note of the Austro-Hungarian Government. There are 24 branches of the Czecho-Slovak National Alliance in Canada with headquarters in Winnipeg. The Canadian president, W. Blaha, has sent the following telegram to President Wilson:

"Your firm, uncompromising answer to the Hapsburgs, demanding the absolute independence and self-determination of the Czecho-Slovak state, has aroused the greatest self-determination of the Czecho-Slovak state, has aroused the greatest satisfaction amongst the Czecho-Slovak people in Canada, and on their behalf please accept our sincerest thanks."

Message to Masaryk

Mr. Blaha also despatched the following telegram to Prof. Masaryk, chairman of the alliance, whose present headquarters are in Washington: "The Czecho-Slovak people in Canada are thrilled with great joy in reading the proclamation issued by you to the world announcing the fundamental principles which are to be adopted to govern the present Czecho-Slovak republic. This is a fitting victory for your indomitable spirit, supported by all liberty-loving Czecho-Slovak people the world over."

The activities of the alliance since the outbreak of war, directed to the achievement of their national aims, have been seconded all along with the most earnest effort to give practical assistance to the allies in the war. Thousands of men of the oppressed nationalities of South-eastern Europe have fought in the Canadian army. August Fibiger, former Canadian president of the alliance, recruited a unit of Czechs in Winnipeg and the West, which went overseas as a company in the 223rd Manitoba Battalion about two years ago. The 225th British Columbia Battalion also contained a number of soldiers of this nationality. Many Czecho-Slovaks have gone overseas from Eastern Canada, and Czechs residents in the United States came to Canada at the financial expense of the alliance to enlist against the Teutonic alliance before the United States came into the war.

Fight on All Fronts

The Czecho-Slovak army is in the fifth place numerically with the allies fighting on the French, Italian and Macedonian fronts. They form the nucleus of a new Entente force on the Russian front, opposing Bolshevism and German influence in Russia and Siberia. Thousands are in the United States army.

The white and red flag of the Czech people now floats over the historic castle of Hradsin, seat of former Czech kings, in Prague, symbolizing the dawn of Freedom from Teutonic rule and oppression which the Czechs have fought against with every means in their power for 800 years.