

"STAY-IN" STRIKES AT PARIS SHOPS

POLICE EXPEL WORKERS

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

PARIS, DEC. 22

The retail staffs of some multiple provision stores tried to launch a stay-in strike last night in sympathy with the workers in their distribution departments who have been occupying the warehouses since yesterday morning. The police had no difficulty in securing the evacuation of most of the occupied shops. To-day the employers claim that only about 300 shop assistants are on strike, but the union states that there are 1,500.

No inconvenience has been felt by the public so far, and Christmas provisioning is not threatened, but if the warehouse strike goes on the replenishing of stocks in the shops will become difficult. The employers are prepared to negotiate a renewal of the collective agreement with retail staffs, but refuse to negotiate with the warehouse workers till they have evacuated the premises. The warehouse strike, therefore, remains at a deadlock.

The Gaumont studios are still closed, but Pathé-Cinéma studios resumed work this morning and the Tobis studio at Epinay (where the dispute began) was evacuated yesterday by order of the police after two days' occupation by the strikers. The film workers' union claims that the strike has extended to all studios and laboratories except those of two companies.

The foremen at the tobacco factories at Toulouse have struck, but the men continue to work under the supervision of the management. At Metz the foremen and night watchmen in several tobacco factories are on strike.

MORE WORKLESS IN U.S.

570,000 RISE IN A MONTH

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, DEC. 22

Miss Perkins, Secretary of Labour, stated to-day that the number of unemployed in the United States increased during October by 570,000. This represents the sharpest monthly increase in the history of the Department of Labour with the exception of one month in 1920. Total employment in all industries last month was about equal to that in November, 1936, and weekly payrolls exceeded those in the corresponding month of last year by \$11,000,000 [£2,200,000].

Between the middle of October and the middle of November of this year factory employment declined 5.8 per cent. and 480,000 factory employees lost their jobs during that period. This decline was spread over the whole industrial field. Miss Perkins said that in spite of these discouraging signs consumption remained "surprisingly good."

It is reported to-day by the Works Progress Administration that \$1,397,380,264 [£279,000,000] had been spent by that agency between January 1 and November 30. Of this amount \$180,772,487 had been spent in New York City alone.

MOSLEMS AND DOGS

SWISS ATTITUDE TO LEAGUE

NO INTENTION TO WITHDRAW

INDEPENDENT POLICY

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

GENEVA, DEC. 22

In the Swiss Parliament this evening M. Motta, President of the Confederation and Foreign Minister, made an important statement on the effect of the withdrawal of Italy from the League of Nations on Swiss foreign policy.

"The League of 1937 does not much resemble the idea we had of it in 1920," he said. Switzerland had adhered to the League, and that adherence was wise. The main obstacle that had had to be overcome was due to the Swiss tradition of neutrality. It had been thought that if Swiss neutrality was safeguarded in its military aspects Switzerland could run the risk of being party to the League, that risk being compensated for by the guarantees of security which the League was to afford.

The particular status of Switzerland was confirmed by the Versailles Treaty and defined in the London Declaration of February 13, 1920, and it could be regarded as satisfactory. But now Switzerland was compelled to consider whether for that status all the exigencies of the League system of security were necessary; and the withdrawal of Italy from the League, following that of Germany, another of Switzerland's neighbours, made it urgent to examine the question. The view of the Federal Council was that the Confederation must make it clear that Swiss neutrality was not differential but complete and in conformity with the age-old tradition and the geography and history of the country. The time had come for them to act with calmness and firmness, without nervousness.

VALUE AS A SYMBOL

Referring to the initiative launched to secure the withdrawal of Switzerland from the League, M. Motta declared that nobody should dream of asking her to do so.

If the League had failed in some cases (he said) her value as a symbol remained. International cooperation was a necessity. Its form might be altered, but it had to exist in substance.

Switzerland, the President declared, must not give the impression that she was in the orbit of a determined group of States. "We are our masters and want to be autonomous and free."

Swiss military neutrality was questioned by nobody (he went on), and it would run no danger from Switzerland's membership of the League. The system of sanctions was now practically unattainable, and the League should now, if it wanted to become universal, give up methods of compulsion.

The League ran the risk of transforming itself into a coalition drawn up against another coalition, but the Swiss Federal Council was persuaded that Great Britain and France, seconded by the firm will of other States such as the Netherlands, Belgium, and the Scandinavian countries, would prevent it from falling into the fatal and unforgivable error of becoming the servant of one or another ideology, and thus altering its nature, its reasons of existence, its aims, and tendencies.

Switzerland would play in the League, tomorrow as yesterday, her modest part, which was not devoid of significance.

The whole question, concluded the President, would be brought before Parliament in January, when a full report on the question would be made by the Foreign Office.

M. Motta's statement was received with unanimous applause.

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RITUAL IMPURITY

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

CAIRO, DEC. 22

Dogs living in Moslem countries may have reason to be grateful for the *Fetwa* (a ruling on the interpretation of Moslem religious law) which has been issued by the authorities of the University of Al Azhar in response to queries from an Indian Prince who asked:—

- (1) If it is lawful to breed dogs, like cats, to guard a house;
- (2) If it is lawful to play with a dog and place it, while still moist, upon a bed if its owner adheres to the principles of Imam Malek (the founder of a Moslem sect);
- (3) If a dog licks the body or clothes of a follower of Imam Malek who has just prayed, will he be considered impure and his prayers regarded as null and void?

The *Fetwa* declares:—

- (1) That the keeping of watchdogs in a house is lawful;
- (2) That the body of a dog and its saliva and perspiration are pure as long as the dog is alive, and that if a dog rests on a bed and touches a person or his clothes this does not make the person impure or invalidate his prayers, whether the dog be moist or not;
- (3) That if a dog licks the body or clothes of a person who has just prayed this does not make the person impure or invalidate his prayers.

**TORONTO BABY RACE WILL
HELD VALID**

COURT TO CHOOSE WINNER

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

OTTAWA, DEC. 22

The Supreme Court of Canada to-day upheld the clause in the eccentric will of Mr. Charles Vance Millar, a Toronto lawyer, by which his estate now worth