ASSERTS SERBIANS FACE EXTINCTION

Their Plight in Occupied Districts Worse Than Belgians,' Says Labor Envoy.

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WASHINGTON, April 4.—Conditions in Serbia are worse than those in either Belgium or Rumania, and immediate help, moral and material, is urgently needed, according to a statement prepared by D. Popovitch, Secretary of the Serbian Labor Party and representative of that party at the meeting of the International Socialist Committee, made public here today by Professor Voyslav M. Voyanovitch, a representative of the Serbian Government.

"The condition of the Serbian population," says the statement, "is wholly desperate and speedy help from the civilized world is urgently needed. Moral help is needed in order that it may stop the further barbarities of the Bulgarian and Austro-Hungarian authorities; material help is needed in food, clothing, and money, in order that it may prevent the death of interned civilians, also those who are war prisoners in prisoners' camps, as well as those who are still alive in Serbia and who represent the only surviving creatures there, women, children, and old men.

"The conditions in Serbia are worse than in Belgium, worse than in occupied Polish provinces, and more terrible than in occupied Rumania. In Belgium the new masters did not venture to do what they might do, because they were under the close scrutiny of the civilized world, under the control of European public opinion. In Poland and Rumania the occupying powers have a policy aiming at getting the sympathy of the population for the sake of the future policy of the occupying powers.

"Those who are left at home live in most terrible misery. There is no working or producing power. The possibility of earning money does not exist: there is no money to buy anything, no articles to be bought. The occupying powers, in a manner which is being more and more refined every year that passes, are taking literally from the mouths of the population the whole yearly harvest and sucking up the last drops of the national richness. Occupied Serbia needs help from her friends more urgently than any other occupied country.

"Meanwhile the remaining population of Serbia receives no help from abroad. In the course of the first year of occupation the Serbian Government did not send a single farthing to Serbia. Only with the beginning of 1917 about 40,000,000 francs were sent by the Government, and this sum is highly insufficient with respect to the prevailing misery.

"This preventive measure, if it was really decided upon, must be abolished. Food, clothing and money must be sent immediately to those in Serbia as well as those interned or war prisoners in Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria. If the Serbian authorities fail to do this, the fate of the Serbian population will be sealed and Serbia, which has made already over a million sacrifices, will represent a great graveyard.

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