

## SHORT LIFE FOR BLUM'S REGIME IN FRANCE SEEN

Odds Piling Up Against  
New Government,  
Simms Says.

BY WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS  
Star-News-Bureau Foreign Editor  
WASHINGTON, June 15.—Few governments in the history of the third republic have faced a more difficult job than that of Premier Leon Blum, now attempting to ride the storm in France.

His task is something like that of a cowboy trying to juggle half a dozen different objects and stick on the back of a bucking bronco at the same time.

Merely sticking on the horse, not to mention getting away with the juggling, may prove impossible. He may be thrown before the rest of his act has time to get well under way.

On paper he has the backing of 82 Communists, 115 Radical Socialists, 35 Independents and the 146 Socialists of his own party, for a total of 373. Against him are the 236 of the right.

Which sounds impressive. And, on his first vote of confidence, the response was even more so. He received 384 ballots, or six more than the total number of popular front deputies combined. Opposed were only 210.

### In Grip of Strike

But that vote can hardly be taken as a criterion. Premier Blum was then enjoying his honeymoon, as politicians in this country would express it. Also France was in the grip of what amounted almost to a general strike.

In other words, it was no time for rocking the boat. More than a million revolutionary strikers had downed tools and occupied the plants which ordinarily employed them. Well-to-do conservatives were thoroughly alarmed. Blum seemed less radical than those in control of the strike and as he promised a reasonable and early settlement, he seemed the lesser of two evils.

The future, however, is less bright. Unless he leans pretty far to the left, the 82 Communists will almost certainly desert him. Despite earnest pleas, maintained for days prior to his taking office, the Communists refused to accept a position in his cabinet. They preferred to remain a "free agent," able at any time to support, attack or otherwise bring

FLAMES SPREAD FROM APARTMENT TO NEARBY HOMES



A two-alarm fire caused \$20,000 damage to an apartment at 1525 Central-av and adjacent homes including that of Bishop Joseph M. Francis of the Episcopal Church today. The blaze is shown above.

pressure on him, and frankly told him so.

Of the 115 Radical Socialists, many participated in the Popular Front campaign for purposes of election only. Now that they are in this group will almost certainly split, sooner or later, over Blum's policies. He is bound to be too radical for some and not radical enough for others.

### Could Be Overthrown

Should the 82 Communists and others of the left wing even refrain from voting on some crucial issue, the right parties, supported by the moderates of the Radical Socialists, could easily overthrow him.

The fact that he is now in a position to be almost engaged in a civil war over the guilt or innocence of Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, will also boil up at some tense, future moment, possibly to his undoing. Cries of "Jew!" have already echoed in the chamber.

To steer a safe middle course for long will prove well nigh impossible. Left wingers have had their hopes raised pretty high. Never having had the job of running the government entrusted to them before, they are now expecting big things. They hope to go far in the direction of nationalization, taxing the rich, increasing wages, shortening hours, and so on. The Communists want a capital levy.

Premier Blum has indicated he

intends to try to follow a middle way. The chances are he will not please the extreme left very long. And as he can not possibly rule with the center and right, the odds are in favor of a short life and a hectic one for his regime.

### HIT BY TRAIN, KILLED

Local Man, 68, Walking Along Tracks Probers Told.

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## MILITARY ALERT AS FRENCH STRIKES END

New Outbursts Feared by  
Premier Blum.

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PARIS, June 15.—Steel helmeted mobile guards today supervised French efforts to return to industrial normalcy after two weeks of strikes which resulted in higher wages and reduced working hours for labor.

The impressive display of military force was prompted by fears of Premier Leon Blum's Popular Front government that "foreign agitators" would foment fresh troubles likely again to cripple French industry and halt the country's armaments program.

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Of the hundreds of walkouts only 10 strikers remained unsettled.

### NECKTIES ARE STOLEN

Two Dozen Taken From Toles Hat  
Shop by Burglars.

One Indianapolis thief had a varied choice of neckties today as police received a report of the theft of two dozen ties from the Toles Hat Shop, 144 N. Meridian-st. Entrance was gained through a window, according to Harold Toles, proprietor.

## 360 ARE HIRED FOR RENOVATION OF CAR TRACKS

Two Improvement Projects  
Are Started by City  
Railway.

Three hundred and sixty new employees are being put to work by Indianapolis Railways, Inc., on two track improvement projects which started today, Charles W. Chase, president, announced.

First project covers 22,200 feet of track on Illinois-st. from the Fall Creek bridge to Ohio-st. Second construction job includes 3400 feet of track on W. Washington-st. from Bloomington-st. to the Belt Railroad.

One hundred eighty new employees have been secured through the National Re-employment Service for work on each project, he said.

### Tracks to Be Rebuilt

Car tracks in these locations are to be entirely rebuilt, Mr. Chase said. New rails and new ties will be installed, and the roadbed will be regraded and reballasted. All rail ends are to be thermite-welded to eliminate joints and to insure smooth riding for street car passengers.

Since April 1, Indianapolis Railways has completed the reconstruction of 9400 feet of track on the College-av line from the Fall Creek bridge to Maple-nd, and from 46th to 51st-sts. A total of 26 miles of car tracks are expected to be rebuilt this year, Mr. Chase stated, at cost of approximately \$1,500,000.

Continuation of track work on the College-av and inauguration of a fourth reconstruction project on E. Washington-st. are scheduled to follow immediately, Mr. Chase said.

### DELEGATE TO SESSION

Helen Teal Among Indiana Nurses  
to Attend Convention.

Miss Helen Teal, executive secretary of the Indiana State Nurses' Association and secretary of the National Nurses' Association, along with more than 30 other nurses, is to represent Indiana at the national biennial nursing convention in Los Angeles, Cal., the week of June 21.

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