

HOW MINORITIES LIVE

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

PERSECUTION OF LEADERS OF SLOVAK NATIONAL PARTY

Of late the persecution of the Slovak National Party has been carried on with constantly increasing violence. This Party, which is supported by the Lutheran minority of the Slovak people, was in the past treated rather more leniently by the authorities than the Catholic Slovak People's Party (Andrew Hlinka's Party), with which it has combined to struggle for the autonomy guaranteed Slovakia under the Convention signed at Pittsburgh on May 30th., 1918, also by Masaryk, but so far not put into effect. However, since *Louis Bazovsky* — the first Sheriff of Nôgrád County and one of the foremost leaders of the National Party — was arrested, this Party has forfeited the favour of Prague. On August 21st. last, by order of the Beszterce District Court, the gendarmes paid domiciliary visits to the Turócszentmárton homes of *Milos Vančic*, advocate, Vice-President of the Slovak Party, *Florian Stač*, Secretary-General of the Party, and *Alexander Pakan*, Editor of the „*Národné Noviny*“. Subsequently, the gendarmes paid domiciliary visits also to the editorial offices of the „*Národné Noviny*“ and to the secretariat of the Party. According to the reports of the Czech papers, these domiciliary visits were incidental to the Bazovsky affair; and we are told that the persons referred to will be cross-examined at the trial of Bazovsky, which is to begin on October 1st. The charge against Bazovsky and his associates is that they desire to annex Slovakia to Hungary. It is worth noting that the Czecho-Slovak court of law has just found that the appearance of the „*Národné Noviny*“ — the organ of the Slovak National Party which has been in existence uninterruptedly for 67 years — may be prohibited. It is also worth noting as a characteristic symptom that during the Magyar régime the paper was never interfered with, though at that time too it was a bold champion of the cause of Slovak nationalism.

THE LEADER OF THE RUTHENIAN AUTONOMISTS ON THE SITUATION OF THE RUTHENIAN PEOPLE

As is well known, the Czecho-Slovak Government has so far failed to carry out a single jot of the obligations undertaken in respect of the autonomy of Ruthenia under the Treaty concluded at Saint-Germain-en-Laye on September 10th., 1919, with the Allied and Associated Powers. The official organ of the Ruthenian Autonomist Agrarian Union (Kurdyák Party) — the „*Ruskij Vistnik*“ — recently published the speeches made by *Endre Bródy*, the parliamentary representative of the Party, in connection with Minister Benes's last exposé and on the occasion of the parliamentary discussion of the press novel. Despite their being so cautiously worded, these speeches unmistakably echo the measureless bitterness of the Ruthenian people against the Prague Government. In the first speech, among other things, Bródy said that "if the Government wishes to save this part of the Republic, it must first of all define the frontiers of Ruthenia and must put an end to the denationalisation of the Little Russians in East Slovakia, where 20,000 Little Russians are being deprived of the ability to live a national life. The Little Russians — a people numbering 200,000 souls — have not a single gymnasium (grammar school) in East Slovakia... At the same time a Bill must be presented to Parliament in re the preparations to be made for introducing Ruthenian autonomy... In order to do something on paper at least, Government is preparing to appoint a Governor, though without giving him rights or sphere of authority". During the discussion of the novel to supplement the Press Act, Bródy — the leader of the Ruthenian Autonomists — described the situation pre-

vailing in Ruthenia in the following terms: — "In Ruthenia the present régime must fall and must certainly be done away with, seeing that half the population of that province is either starving or reduced to beggary, while on the other hand the leaders of the government parties are doing good business there".

TWELVE SCHOOLROOMS FOR 1800 MAGYAR PUPILS

The Czech propagandists are in the habit of telling foreign countries that Czecho-Slovakia is making due provision for the education of the Magyar children of schooling age. However, the real situation is strikingly illustrated by the fact that — as shown by the memorandum recently submitted to the Prague Ministry of Education — in Beregszász, the largest town in Ruthenia, only 12 schoolrooms are available for the use of 1800 Magyar pupils — that meaning that 150 Magyar children are being crowded into each of the 12 rooms —, whereas splendid school-"palaces" are being built in rapid succession for the use of the "Czecho-Slovak" pupils. It is easy to conceive the effect of the crowded schoolrooms upon the health of the undeveloped children.

RUMANIA

RUMANIAN HISTORIAN ON THE ALLEGED

THOUSAND-YEARS OPPRESSION

Professor Avram P. Tudor, librarian of the Rumanian Academy of Sciences, recently delivered a lecture on "Rumanian-Hungarian Connections in the Past and in the Present" at Valeni de Munteni, in connection with the Summer University Courses of Jorga. In the course of his interesting lecture Tudor dealt with the charge of oppression during ten centuries brought against the Hungarians. In this connection the professor showed that in the light of the historical data the alleged oppression of the Hungarians under which the Rumanians were said to have suffered for ten centuries, was a mere old wives' tale. It was not oppression but class rule similar to that which had prevailed in all other countries of Europe. The members of the nobility were not exclusively Magyars, but included also elements of all sorts and conditions of peoples; and this nobility had ruled over the vassals without respect to creed or nationality. The nationality antagonism between Magyars and Rumanians dated only from the second half of the nineteenth century; for the "nationality" idea was an invention of that century. Consequently — continued Professor Tudor — it was nonsense to talk of nationality oppression. After the lecture one of the Rumanian students went up to the lecturer and asked him how it was possible under such circumstances that the history textbooks in use in Rumania should present an absolutely contradictory picture of the historical relations between Hungarians and Rumanians? In answer Professor Tudor said that the writers of historical text-books of the kind were not inspired by feelings of justice when treating historical facts of that natura.

STATE OF SIEGE PROLONGED FOR A FURTHER SIX MONTHS

The royal decree issued on December 30th., 1933, ordaining a state of siege in nine towns and in two counties of the Regate and a preliminary censorship throughout the whole country, expired on September 15th. of this year. The state of siege which has been in force with various interruptions for the past fifteen years in Rumania, but chiefly in the territories annexed to that country by the peace treaties, curtailed in the greatest measure the political and civil rights of the population and the preliminary censorship weighed intolerably on the minority press, but there was reason to hope that this disgraceful state of affairs would not last much longer. This hope

was aroused in the Transylvanian Magyar minority chiefly by a speech delivered recently at Arad by M. Dinu Bratianu, leader of the Liberal Party, in which he emphatically opposed the maintenance in force of the state of siege and of the censorship of the press. The Premier, M. Tatarescu, did not however defer to the leader of his Party, — indeed, the official organ of the Government, the "Vittorul", published M. Bratianu's speech in a censored form. The Magyar minority in Transylvania will have to put up with all the misery of this exceptional state of affairs for another six months, for a new royal decree ordains that the censorship shall continue in force all over the country and that although the state of siege will cover a slightly reduced area, it will still be maintained in Kolozsvár, Nagyvárad and Temesvár. Besides continuing to restrict the right of assembly, the state of siege implies in particular an extension of martial law to offences which ordinarily come under the jurisdiction of the civil courts.

YUGOSLAVIA

BELGRADE'S VENGEANCE ON PATRIOTIC CROATIANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

According to a report in the "Croatia-press", the inexorable persecution of the Croats taking a part in, or in any way sympathising with, the Croatian In-

dependence Movement and of the members of their families, is still going on. Recently, the father of Ante Pavelić, the leader of the Croatian liberty movement who has fled abroad, and the two brothers of Dr. Branko Jelić, who is in America, were deported, while the sister of Ivan Herenčić, a supporter of the Croatian liberty movement, was confined and placed under police supervision.

On August 16th. was the trial before a Graz jury of the two Belgrade hirelings charged with attempting on June 16th. and 17th. last, to kill Stevo Duic, a retired Croatian staff lieutenant-colonel. The Public Prosecutor withdrew the charge against one of the prisoners, but the other — one Milan Kolar, Serbian sergeant of gendarmes — was condemned by the Court to three years' penal servitude for incitement to murder and attempted murder.

Dr. Ivan Pernár, former Secretary of State and one of the seriously wounded victims of the assault on Stephen Radic and four of his associates committed during a meeting of the Belgrade Skupstina on June 20th., 1928, was brought to his trial — with eight associates — before the Zagreb Council of the State Defence Tribunal, the charge brought forward by the Public Prosecutor being that of having printed and propagated broadsides not previously submitted to the approval of the authorities.

THEATRE • LITERATURE • ARTS

EMERICH MADÁCH

One of the most brilliant manifestations of Hungarian native talent, Emerich Madách's "Tragedy of Man", has just set forth on its way to conquer the world. Though we speak of Madách's "native talent", his was one of the most polished and highly cultured minds in Hungary. He knew the history of the world *ex asse*: his sociological insight was far ahead of that of the scientists and thinkers of his age; he was at home not only in natural science, but also in natural philosophy; he borrowed from Hegel, Büchler, the materialists and the British empiric school, but remained independent of them all in his judgments and valuations.

Still we call his talent "native", because in the creation and elaboration of his great dramatic conception he was entirely dependent upon his own resources. He had no forerunner, no master in Hungarian literature, or for that matter in world literature either. What he learned from Goethe's "Faust" was only a few externals, a few secondary *motifs*, episodes which might easily have been omitted from his grand structure without the work suffering, or even without their loss being felt.

It would be a far cry even to attempt to sketch here the meaning of his work, its trend of ideas, and the overwhelming richness of its contents — the tragedy of man (of mankind) as mirrored in the world's history from the time of the Pharaohs till it ends at some dim point hid in the mists of the future, when for man on earth the last conditions and possibilities of struggle, progress, even of being, have ceased. This poem is a cry of pessimism, yet its last words are not words of despair, but of dawning hope and of encouragement.

"Hark to me, Man! Strive on, strive on, and trust" is the reassuring, conciliating thought which begets hope between the despair that leads to suicide and the acquiescence and faith that bow before the will of God. It is

heard in the 13th. scene of the Tragedy when, after the flight into the void which he was forced to give up, Adam returns to the Earth from which he would, but could not, break away. When, in obedience to the words of the Spirit of the Earth, Adam turns back, he gives voice to the most profound philosophic thought in the whole Tragedy, its fundamental message radiating with almost cosmic force to the ends of the earth: —

"A hundred times my goal I'll vainly seek.

It matters little. For what is that goal?

Twice mark the end of a most glorious fight.

The goal is Death and Life is but a struggle.

*The struggle of itself is Man's real aim."*¹

The Tragedy of Man was acted for the five-hundredth time in the Budapest National Theatre in the January of this year. At the same time it was received enthusiastically by a select and critical audience and press in the Burgtheater in Vienna. The poetical translation by Ch. H. Meltzer and Paul Vajda has opened the way for its production on the British and American stage. In October it will be produced in Rome.

Hungarian native talent has again achieved a new and significant success, and the question is bound to present itself to the whole civilized world: Was what happened to Hungary not a crying injustice to a race that has enriched the intellectual treasure-house of the nations with gifts of this value?

Charles Sebestyén.

¹ From translation by Charles Henry Meltzer and Paul Vajda. (Dr. George Vajna & Co. Budapest, 1933.)