

P O L I T I C A L E C O N O M Y

A U S T R I A

INTERNATIONAL POSITION OF AUSTRIA

On November 21st. Dr. Schuschnigg, Austrian Chancellor, had two conversations with Mussolini, at which Berger-Waldenegg, Austrian Foreign Minister, and Suvich, Italian Foreign Secretary, were also present. These pour-parlers once more confirmed the policy of a close understanding between Austria and Italy; the fact was established that the Italian-Austrian-Hungarian protocols signed in March, 1934, had contributed to an improvement of the economic situation of Austria. It was ascertained further that the agreements between the three States were not in the least exclusive in character and could be extended to other countries willing to accept the conditions forming the basis in principle of those agreements. It was also acknowledged finally that it would be useful to strengthen the cultural intercourse between the two States by new agreements relating to the establishment in Rome and Vienna of cultural institutes.

By invitation of the Austrian Chancellor the Hungarian Premier, Gömbös, and the Hungarian Minister of Agriculture, Kállay, took part in the shooting party arranged in the State forests in North Styria. The object of this meeting was to give an opportunity for renewed discussions between the two heads of government and between the Hungarian Minister of Agriculture and Stockinger, Austrian Minister of Agriculture, who had recently treated with Kállay in Budapest.

Dr. Schuschnigg, Austrian Chancellor, and Berger-Waldenegg, Austrian Foreign Minister, arrived on December 13th. in Budapest, where they stayed three days. The central event of their official programme was the discussion between the Austrian statesmen, the Hungarian Prime Minister General Gömbös and the Hungarian Foreign Minister, Kálmán Kánya. According to the communiqué issued on this occasion questions of common interest to both countries and the international situation were the themes of discussion. The Austrian visitors were received in private audience by the Regent, Admiral Horthy, who gave a lunch in their honour. At the dinner given by him the Hungarian Prime Minister made a speech in which, among other things, he stressed the fact that the period which had elapsed since the signing of the Rome protocols had shown that the original conception has been correct and that this was the only path which the Austrian and Hungarian peoples could follow if they desired to fulfil their European mission in the valley of the Danube. In his reply Dr. Schuschnigg declared that both Austria and Hungary were bent on securing a peaceful and undisturbed development and were by no means pursuing a policy of closed doors.

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA AN "INDUSTRIAL CEMETERY"

Speaking before the Socio-Political Committee of the House of Deputies of the effect exercised upon the industrial establishments by the economic crisis, Meissner, Minister of Public Welfare, used the phrase "industrial cemetery" and pointed out that between 1928 and the end of March, 1934, no fewer than 644 factories — i. e. 5.4% of the total number — had definitively suspended operations. Of the other 11,159 factories in March 1,158 were not working; nor is it sure whether or

when they will be able to resume operations. Even if we take into consideration the new factories established since 1928, there are 15% (1,802) fewer establishments active today than in the year 1928. Of the 17 smelting works which were in working in 1925 only 5 were still active in 1933. Since 1928 the number of workers employed in the mining industry has declined from 110,324 to 85,862. In 1928 the 10,803 factories in working employed altogether 1,005,000 persons: whereas the number of workers employed at the end of March, 1934, was only 655,000. The grave economic crisis has made its detrimental influence felt also in respect of population statistics; just as badly as in the years of the Great War. Whereas in 1933 the number of children born alive was 333,253, in 1933 the number of such children had already declined to 287,623. The number recorded for 1933 corresponds to that recorded for 1915. Between 1931 and the end of June, 1934, the number of births decreased by 104,655. The Minister further established the fact that since August, 1934, there has been a renewed increase of unemployment.

R U M A N I A

RESULT OF RUMANIAN INLAND LOAN

The amount ultimately resulting from the Rumanian inland loan was 3,740,000,000 lei. The Government has decided that out of this amount the sum of 2 billions will be allotted to the army, 350 millions to agriculture, 220 millions appropriated for school and church purposes, 125 millions allotted to the Ministry of Public Health, and 250 millions to the Bank of Issue. This result was due partly to "gentle pressure", as may be seen from the following cases: — The priests and ministers of the minority Churches were required in the course of their sermons to call the attention of their congregations to the obligation to subscribe the loan. On the villages inhabited by Magyars it was simply levied, the inhabitants of each several village being required to subscribe definite fixed amounts in lei. In this way the township of Biharpüspöki (Episcopia-Bihorului) — a parish with a population consisting almost entirely of pure Magyars — was required to subscribe 900,000 lei. The Arad police summoned a chemist and a textile manufacturer belonging to minorities to subscribe 200,000 lei each; and when the said persons declared their unwillingness to subscribe more than 2000 lei, they were immediately expelled from Rumania. It was only after infinite trouble and intervention that the two victims deported to the Hungarian frontier succeeded in obtaining permission to return.

Y U G O S L A V I A

INTERESTING AND INSTRUCTIVE REPORT

The December, 1934, report of the Chartered Yugoslav Company for the Export of Agrarian Produce — while referring to the grave situation of agrarian production — among other things establishes the fact that during the course of the past five years the agricultural area under cultivation has increased by 213,354 hectares to 7,231,038 hectares, that representing an advance of 3.04%. Despite the disastrous slump in the price of wheat there has been an increase also in the area sown with wheat, which in 1933 amounted to altogether 2,127,297 hectares. The same has been the case — also despite the development of market prices — with the territories sown with maize,

which by 1933 had advanced to an aggregate area of 2,637.740 hectares, as against 2,380.838 hectares in the year 1929. In contrast to this striking increase, the area of land sown with industrial plants however shows a decline — from 153.471 hectares in 1929 to 102.996 hectares in the year under review — although the un lucrative character of wheat-growing might be expected to encourage farmers to indulge instead in the far more profitable business of growing industrial plants. Thus, although the various international conferences held in recent years as one means of solving the grave problem of wheat growing and marketing suggested an adequate reduction of the areas sown with wheat as the best expedient, we find that Yugoslavia — even despite the resolutions taken at these conferences — is continually increasing the territories sown with wheat and other cereals.

YUGOSLAV FILM THEATRES

According to the statistics published by the Yugoslav State Film Board the number of film theatres operating

in the territory of Yugoslavia is 319. That means 1 film theatre for every 43.000 inhabitants. The largest share is that claimed by the Danube Banate (some 110 = on the average 1 for every 21.000 inhabitants). In the Save Banate there are 62 (1 cinema for every 42.000 inhabitants); and in the territory of the Drave Banate (Croatia and Slavonia) 46 (an average of 1 cinema for every 24.000 inhabitants). The smallest quota of film establishments is that of the Zeta Banate — altogether 9: here the disproportion is a very great one — 1 cinema for every 101.000 inhabitants!! Of the films produced in 1933 573 were foreign and 190 Yugoslav products: that meaning that altogether 763 films were shown that year. There are only 62 cinemas in the whole country which have performances every day. In Hungary, on the other hand, the number of film establishments in activity in 1930 was 558. And the comparative proportion is better than that in force in Yugoslavia, even if we exclude the large number of cinemas functioning in Budapest: for even then the average proportion of cinemas will be 1 for every 16.000 inhabitants.

S P O R T S

As a result of the unusually warm weather it has so far been impossible to start activity in every branch of winter sport. It is only skaters and players of ice hockey who are enabled — thanks to the excellent artificial ice rink in Budapest — to do any really efficient work. In nearly all other branches of sport the usual season of winter rest has set in; only footballers are still active, most of the leading teams having gone touring in foreign countries.

ATHLETICS

In the field of athletics "all is quiet", so that we have no fresh events to record. It will however not be without interest to utilise the present opportunity — now that the season is over — to compare the Hungarian records with those of world athletics:

	World Record	Hungarian Rec.
100 metres flat race	10.3 secs.	10.5 secs.
200 " " "	20.6 "	21.0 "
400 " " "	46.2 "	48.4 "
800 " " "	1 min. 49.8 secs	1 min. 52.0 secs.
High Jump	206 centimetres	196 centimetres
Long Jump	798 "	749 "
Pole Jump	437 "	403 "
Throwing the Discus	5242 "	5073 "

The above data are striking testimony to the highly developed state of Hungarian athletics; for they show that the athletes of the Hungarian nation — a people of barely eight million souls — have achieved records very little below those of the world.

FOOTBALL

The autumn season of the First League closed early in the present month. The position of the leading clubs shows the following order of rank: — 1. Ujpest, 2. Ferencváros, 3. Hungária, 4. Bocsokay.

The match between the representative teams of Italy and Hungary was played on December 9th. in Milan, in the San Siro Stadion. Though the Hungarian team scored the first goal and the first half-time showed a drawn game (2—2), the match eventually ended with a victory of the Italians by 4 goals to 2.

FENCING

On December 8th. and 9th. the Austrian Fencing Association arranged a meeting to decide the Vienna Foils

and Epée Championships. The Foils Championship was won by Losert, the eminent Austrian fencer, second and third places being secured by two Hungarians, Zirczy and Ujfalussy. The Epée Championship was however won by the Hungarian Székelyhidý, who did not lose a single assault and showed brilliant form.

SHOOTING

During the present month the most important event in the pigeon-shooting world of Italy — the International Championship — was held at Bordighera, one of the most beautiful spots in the Italian Riviera. The competition — which lasted three days — drew very large numbers of Italian, French, British and Austrian competitors. The only representative of Hungary was Dr. Alexander Lumnitzer, winner of many World and European Championships. Though he was only able to start at the last moment and thus took part in the competition practically without any previous training, Lumnitzer nevertheless succeeded in winning the event, thus gaining fresh laurels for Hungary. His splendid victory is particularly valuable in view of the fact that he competed with a Hungarian gun and Hungarian cartridges.

ICE HOCKEY

On December 8th. the Klagenfurt Ice Hockey Club — which last year won the Austrian Championship — played a match on the Budapest artificial ice rink. The Austrians, who had evidently had but little previous training, failed to withstand the vigorous Hungarian attacks, the final result being a victory of the Hungarian team by 7 goals to 1.

UNIVERSITY SPORT

Entries for the International University Games to be held in Budapest next year have been received from Egypt and Lithuania too, which countries have never yet competed in the Games. Luxembourg — which country has already failed to appear on two occasions — has written a most cordial letter announcing her intention of without fail sending a considerable number of students to compete in Budapest. Everything seems to promise that the Budapest International University Games will vie with the big Olympic Games in point of the number of competitors.