

# HOW MINORITIES LIVE

## CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

### THE PROBLEM OF SUDETA GERMANS AND GREAT BRITAIN

Herr Konrad Henlein, leader of the Sudeta German Party, was in London in the second half of July. According to the organ of his Party, "Die Zeit", the invitation that took him there is a further proof of the strong sympathy with which Herr Henlein and the Sudeta Germans generally are regarded by numerous important persons in Great Britain. In London Herr Henlein had an opportunity of speaking to a number of leading politicians, who showed a great interest in Czecho-Slovakia's internal problems and their reaction on European developments in general. The report contained in the "Pester Lloyd" that *Herr Henlein's trip to London was undertaken by the explicit desire of the British Foreign Office* and that he had conversations with leading members of the Government, who showed the greatest interest in the conditions prevailing in Czecho-Slovakia, was copied by "Die Zeit" without any comment or denial. According to that report, *the data gathered by the agents of the British Government in the minority districts of Czecho-Slovakia have made a deep impression on His Majesty's Government, leading to the conviction that the wretched situation of the Germans, Poles and Hungarians in Czecho-Slovakia is a serious danger to the rest of Europe. The British Government has told Prague that Czecho-Slovakia cannot count on Britain's sympathy until she treats her minorities better. 'In connection with the application of the Sudeta Germans the question of the minorities in Czecho-Slovakia is to be discussed at the next General Assembly of the League of Nations and the British delegation is to adopt a "very energetic attitude". Britain is to strive all the harder to bring about a satisfactory solution of the Sudeta German question, because Czecho-Slovakia was the worst danger spot in Europe, and nothing short of a satisfactory solution of that problem was likely to prevent the possibility of the formation of dangerous blocks in the future.* — On his return from London, Herr Henlein made a long speech in Asch in which he said that the Sudeta Germans had the right to expect their native land to remain German, their economic life to be preserved from ruin, and to be allowed to administer their own affairs themselves. In a speech delivered on 19th August at Reichenberg, President Beneš admitted that the Czechs had been guilty of mistakes, but he refused to consider the idea of autonomy and clung fast to the point of view that no European State, only the League of Nations had the right to interfere in that matter. In view of the above report President Beneš's statement may be considered to refer to *the interest shown by Great Britain.*

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### ONLY 1.3% OF THE OFFICIALS EMPLOYED IN THE MINISTRIES ARE SLOVAKS OR RUTHENIANS

Statistics which created a great sensation throughout the whole of Slovakia and Ruthenia were published in the "Slovak" of 9th August. They dealt with the

number of Slovaks and Ruthenians employed in the Czecho-Slovakian Ministries. According to them, the Ministries employ 10.825 officials and employees, but only 123 of them are Slovaks or Ruthenians. In some of the Ministries, as, for instance, the Ministry of Public Works and the Office of Public Auditor, not one single Slovak or Ruthenian is employed. Important Ministries, such as the Ministry of Public Education and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry have one Slovak or Ruthenian official each. The inhabitants of Slovakia and Ruthenia have no voice at all in matters of education, trade and commerce, especially the Hungarians; for their number in the Ministries is smaller still than that of the Slovaks and Ruthenians. No wonder if the inhabitants of Slovakia and Ruthenia feel themselves in a worse position than the native population of some far-off colony.

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### SLOVAKS DEMAND ALSO REVISION OF UNJUST LAND REFORM

In its June 10th issue the organ of the Slovak Autonomist Party, the "Slovak" contains the following passage: — "The agrarians held festivals at Nyitra and Nagyszombat (Trnava) at which the Minister, M. Zadina, was present. In Nagyszombat, amongst other things, he said that the slogan, "The soil of Slovakia for the Slovaks!", had not yet been fully achieved. M. Zadina was quite right. The great estates in Slovakia are not yet in the hands of the Slovaks. Thousands of hectares were given as "residue estates" to new owners or let to new tenants. Of the 4.000.000 hectares expropriated in the Republic 3.650.000 were given to the agrarian nobility and only 350.000 to the people. The agrarian nobility received a part of these great estates for next to nothing and also millions in subsidies. These estates are the best soil in the country. The lower classes, especially in Slovakia, had to be content with what the residue estate owners did not want, and to pay through the nose for it. The programme of the Slovak Autonomists is to make the slogan, "The soil of Slovakia for the Slovaks", come true to the last letter. Our programme demands a parcelling of all the land that has not yet been parcelled and, in particular, a re-distribution of the residue estates, or rather, a revision of the whole Land Reform."

In explanation let it be said that by agrarians is meant the Czech Agrarian Party, the largest in the Government coalition, while "residue estate owners" and "agrarian nobility" mean the new Slovak owners of medium-sized estates who, as partisans of Czech Centralism, were rewarded for their political services to Prague with the greater part of the land taken away from the Hungarian owners of large estates, usually castles and all, with a complete ignoring of the Slovak and Hungarian landless population.

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## CITIZENSHIP OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES IN KIRÁLYHÁZA WHO HAD BEEN CZECHO-SLOVAK STATE SERVANTS NOT RECOGNIZED

The Railway Managing Office in Kassa (Košice) recently told several Hungarian railway employees of Királyháza to produce their certificates of citizenship. Failing this, under Act 52 of 1935 they would be obliged to procure permission to remain in the country. This order came as a great and painful surprise to the railway-men who for sixteen years had considered themselves citizens of the Czecho-Slovak Republic. When in 1920 Királyháza came under Czech rule, the railwaymen of that place had to sign a statement that they would remain at least six years in the service of the Czecho-Slovak State. At that time the Republic was greatly in need of trained railwaymen, especially engine-drivers, and therefore kept the Hungarians. The railwaymen who signed the statement were fully justified in considering that they had become Czecho-Slovak citizens, and great therefore was their consternation to receive the above-mentioned order. Because of their failure hitherto to apply for permission to reside in the Republic, criminal proceedings have been instituted against them and all members of their families over 14 years of age. This is another case that adds a new chapter to the sad history of "homelessness" in Czecho-Slovakia. At the same time it shows that the Czecho-Slovak Republic looks on the Hungarian population as her citizens only when she has great need of them, but treats them as aliens when she no longer requires their services. Many Hungarian men who have had to serve in the Czecho-Slovak army found that, when their term of service was over, they had been put on the black list of the "homeless".

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## HEROIC STRUGGLE OF HUNGARIAN VILLAGE FOR AUTONOMY

Act 122., of 1933, ordered that the election of village sheriffs must be recognized and accepted by the authorities. Shortly after the promulgation of this law the president of the Hungarian National Party, Mr. Béla Góts was elected sheriff in the village of Szepsi. The election however, was not accepted by the Ministry of the Interior. The new election led to the same result: Mr. Góts was re-elected village sheriff. An official delegate was then appointed by the authorities to conduct the administration of the village; he remained in office for two years. In December, 1935, the new election strengthened the position of the Hungarian parties. Owing to the difficulties experienced at the previous elections, Mr. Góts had to yield his place to the president of the Christian Socialist Party, Mr. Julius Jánossy. His election, again was annulled by the Ministry of the Interior. The fourth election, held on March 6th, resulted in the victory of another leading member of the Christian Socialist Party, Mr. Stephen Pergely. The Hungarian population of Czecho-Slovakia is now waiting to see whether the wishes of the electors of Szepsi will at

last be considered in Prague, which is so often termed "the bulwark of democracy".

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## BOOKS FROM HUNGARY CENSORED

Press publications from Hungary may not be delivered to their addresses in Slovakia until the censor's department of the Police Headquarters in Pozsony (Bratislava) has given permission. The examination of the books usually lasts a long time and booksellers often suffer great losses even if eventually the books are released. Dr. John Giller, Hungarian member of the Provincial Assembly stated in his recent interpellation addressed to M. Országh, President of the Province, that the Christmas plays which arrived in Pozsony in November were not released till February, in consequence of which one of the booksellers lost a great deal.

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## WHY ARE HUNGARIAN ARTISTS FORBIDDEN TO GIVE PERFORMANCES IN SLOVAKIA ?

In a recent question in Parliament M. Charles Hokky, Hungarian member of the Prague Senate, mentioned that Emericus Ungár, the world-famed blind Hungarian pianist who won the Chopin prize a few years ago, had not received permission from the Provincial Office in Slovakia to make a concert tour in that province.

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## LECTURES ON HUNGARIAN LITERATURE IN YUGOSLAVIA FORBIDDEN

Police headquarters in Pozsony pronounced a ban on the "Voivodina" literary evening which was to have been arranged on March 21st by the local Hungarian literary society, the Toldy Circle. Several men of letters were to have lectured on the works of the best Hungarian writers in Yugoslavia, one of whom, Dr. Géza Farkas, was to have been present. The writ banning the lectures contained the astonishing explanation that the programme for the "Voivodina" evening overstepped the aims and sphere of activity defined in the rules of the society, in as much as the question of the cultural situation of the minorities in Yugoslavia would be touched on, and this savoured of politics.

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## OLD HYMNS BANNED ON THE STRENGTH OF THE DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC ACT

At the Feast of the Blessed Virgin, Michael Takács was singing an old Hungarian hymn beginning with the words "Blessed Virgin Mother" in church. A report was lodged against him. The gendarmes examined the case, and now the courts of justice have instituted criminal proceedings against him.

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## WHY ALL THIS "SPY-CATCHING"?

One of the most characteristic abuses incidental to the "informer" system in vogue in Czecho-Slovakia is the hysteria impelling the gendarmes and the police to be for ever hunting after spies — a state of things naturally leading to the overzeal of those bodies "taking up" innocent persons by the score. In its March 15th issue the "Slovák", the organ of Monsignor Hlinka's Slovak Autonomist People's Party, published an article set up in thick type containing among other things the following passages: — "We fell sure that the leading personalities of our Republic are not at all flattered to know that we are considered to be doing more in military respects than the need for defence would justify. That is why we are really not particularly pleased to read practically every day reports of the arrest of persons suspected of being spies... And we are very seriously affected by the system lately in vogue of branding as criminals Slovaks who are quite insignificant. The overzeal of the executive officers not possessed of excessive intelligence has already caused trouble enough, and may cause more trouble still. . . For that reason the safety of the State in our country demands that a greater measure of caution should be exercised in these "spy" affairs." This article is particularly interesting as showing that the Czech authorities do not trust the Slovak people at all and consider that people unreliable from the point of view of the Czecho-Slovak Republic.

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## BRITISH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ON THE CZECHO- SLOVAK DEFENCE OF THE STATE ACT

Below we continue the statements about the Czecho-Slovakian Defence of the Republic Act made to the "Pesti Hirlap" by British politicians.

Admiral Taylor, M. P. for Paddington, said: — "England lays great stress on the minority treaties being respected, and I am certain that when the British public hear about that Act, which is at variance with the minority treaties, they will find a way of expressing their honest indignation. I advise Hungary to carry the Czecho-Slovak Government's Defence of the Republic Act before the League of Nations. The time is very opportune. The League has sustained serious wounds in the past few months, and would not outlive a fresh fiasco. If Hungary's rightful demands are not granted, I believe it will be a death-blow to the League. The Great Powers will insist on the minority treaties being respected — especially Britain, who above all others is responsible for the treaties and their fulfilment. I therefore again advise Hungary to submit her complaints to the next session of the League, and to announce now to the world her intention of doing so."

Lord Melchett, Conservative Party, Member of the House of Lords, said: — "The protection of the minorities guaranteed in the Paris treaties was a generous and noble idea, especially if we consider the great extent to which the Succession States incorporated nationalities. But the idea remained an ideal, and the protection of the rights of the minorities is for

the present an unsolvable problem. The Great Powers, especially Britain, felt that it was necessary to conclude treaties for the protection of the minorities. These treaties were guaranteed by all the Powers, but that body is in its infancy yet, and has disappointed many serious expectations. I consider it of the greatest importance that some serious steps should be taken to protect the minorities. No matter which nation has absorbed them, if necessary a conference independent of the League of Nations should be convened, the object of which would be to guarantee the rights of the minorities and improve with equity their present grave situation."

Mr. Baldwin Webb, Conservative Party M. P. said: — "The anti-minority law introduced in Czecho-Slovakia is a fresh argument against the bad peace treaties. The minority treaties are defective. No provision was made against governments who refuse to respect their paragraphs. Britain desires a revision of all the treaties. The League of Nations must be laid down on a new foundation, and its first task must be to revise the peace treaties. It would be a desirable thing to send out a commission to examine carefully all the wrongs suffered by the minorities since the conclusion of the peace treaties, and the commission would have to effect changes, boldly, energetically and equitably."

Mr. Beverley Baxter, Conservative Party M. P., gave his opinion in the following words: — "England's sympathy for Hungary — as my political associates have surely more than once stated — is assured not only in connection with the minority question as propounded by Sir John Haslam, but also in the whole peace revision movement. With the support of Great Britain's sympathy Hungary's just cause must one day arrive at practical results. There is, however, one thing that the Hungarians must understand. With all her sympathy for the justice of Hungary's demands, Britain alone will not be able to solve these questions. But the time will come when the weight of a Great Britain well informed about the Hungarian question will play a decisive role in bringing the issue to a successful close. I advise Hungary to carry the matter before the Leagues of Nations. Britain will the most energetically support the protection of the minorities there; of that everyone may be assured.

Sir John Haslam, Conservative Party M. P., replied as follows: "I shall ask whether the Government has received a report about the Act; whether the Government knows that it constitutes a grave injustice to the minorities in Czecho-Slovakia and is diametrically opposed to the minority treaties, and what steps the Government intends to take in the matter.

It is my conviction that the majority in both Houses of Parliament will side me on this question. We want to know in what form the Czecho-Slovakian Government has announced this latest step to the Governments of the Great Powers, who are primarily responsible for the minority treaties. Ever since the peace treaties were concluded we have heard nothing but complaints from the minorities in the Succession States. We knew that the treaties were not being observed, and whenever definite instances were mentioned we always expressed our disapproval of the attitude displayed by the Succession States. In the present case the facts are unprecedented; for a law has been passed contrary to the paragraphs of the minority treaties. It is the duty of Great Britain, who is responsible in the first place, and also of the rest of the Great Powers to intervene against measures endangering the rights of the minorities."

## RUMANIA

THE DEPOPULATION  
OF SZEKLERLAND

About one-third of the 1,660,488 Hungarian inhabitants of Transylvania, which was wrested from Hungary by the peace Edict of Trianon and handed over to Rumania, are living in the four counties (Csík, Háromszék, Udvarhely, and Maros-Torda) which go by the name of "Siculia" (Széklerland). According to the Hungarian census, in 1910 the Magyar population of that region was 502,030 souls. The data of the Rumanian census in 1930 published by private individuals (no official statistics have been published, and had they been, the arbitrary way the census was taken and the untrustworthiness of its data would make them worthless) puts the number of Magyar inhabitants in "Siculia" at 472,476, so that even Rumanians admit that they form 67.4% of the total population.

The Rumanian Administration is doing everything in its power to obliterate the Hungarian national stamp of these Magyars living in a compact mass. In the spheres of religion and education they are almost entirely at the mercy of attempts to rumanianize them camouflaged in multifarious ways. By means of blood tests and various arbitrary theories of descent, an attempt is being made to prove that the Magyars of "Siculia" are of Rumanian extraction and that they must only be "re-rumanianized". Besides this, the Rumanian Orthodox and the Greek Catholic Churches are trying to shepherd the Hungarians into their folds by a system of arbitrary proselytizing. In very part of "Siculia", though more particularly in the "Erdővidék" districts, Orthodox parishes are springing up like mushrooms after rain, even in places where there is not a single family of that religion in the whole community.

This same "re-rumanianizing" aim is also furthered by State education. The Rumanian Elementary Education Act promulgated on June 26th, 1924 serves the cause of denationalizing the Széklers by the establishment of a system of "cultural zones". The ten counties of Transylvania, including the four mentioned above, have been placed under special provisions by the said Act. It insures special financial privileges (50% extra salary etc.) to State School teachers there (Article 50). These well-paid teachers, the majority of whom can hardly speak a word of Hungarian, are entrusted with the task of denationalizing the Hungarian pupils. The institution of "name analysis" also serves this purpose. It examines the extraction of the school-children's parents and if it turns out that some remote ancestor of any child was a Rumanian, that child is not allowed to attend any other school than a Rumanian public or private one. In the infant schools of that Hungarian district the language to be used is Rumanian and no Hungarian-speaking infant school teachers are employed.

M. Angelescu, Minister of Public Education, recently issued an ordinance decreeing "the restoration to their original nationality" of all the Rumanians living in the districts inhabited by Széklers. In terms of this ordinance every Rumanian school is to take one village in the district in question "under its protection" and help the Orthodox Church there to procure vestments, sacramental vessels etc. As circumstances permit every school must provide for several "denationalized" children and give them a home in its boarding-school. Every school must pay a visit to the village under its care twice a year at least. The ordinance, as we see, fits organically into the movement the obvious aim of which is to denationalize the Magyars in Széklerland. The importance of that movement is shown in the statistics given below, comparing the figures of the Hungarian census in 1910 with the Rumanian inhabitants of "Siculia".

## I. 1910

County	Total Population	Magyars	Rumanians
Csík . . . . .	145,720	125,888 (86.4%)	18,032 (12%)
Háromszék . . . . .	148,080	123,518 (83.4%)	29,963 (15.5%)
Udvarhely . . . . .	124,173	118,458 (95.4%)	2,840 (2.3%)
Maros-Torda . . . . .	219,859	134,166 (61.1%)	71,909 (32.7%)
Whole Area of Széklerland . . . . .	637,562	502,030 (78.7%)	115,744 (18%)

## II. 1930

From Silviu Dragomir's "La Transylvanie Roumaine et ses minorités ethniques".

County	Total Population	Magyars	Rumanians
Csík . . . . .	145,660	120,563 (82.2%)	20,955 (14.4%)
Háromszék . . . . .	135,557	109,373 (80.7%)	21,356 (15.8%)
Udvarhely . . . . .	129,917	119,300 (91.8%)	6,119 (4.7%)
Maros-Torda . . . . .	289,378	123,240 (42.6%)	132,648 (45.9%)
Total Area of Széklerland . . . . .	700,512	472,476 (67.4%)	181,078 (25.8%)



## MASS MEETING OF THE HUNGARIAN PARTY PROHIBITED

The *General Hungarian Party of Rumania*, the party of the Hungarian national minority living in the territories attached to Rumania, called a mass meeting at Sepsiszentgyörgy on 18th July, but the Government *prohibited* it on the pretext that times were troublous. At the same time, however, the different Rumanian political parties were allowed to hold meetings coupled with demonstrations of various sizes. "It is certain — writes the organ of the Hungarian Party — that complaints and grievances would have been voiced at the mass meeting; but stifling the voice of complaint will neither redress wrongs nor do away with the cause of complaints". ("Keleti Ujság", July 13.)

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## HOW THE RUMANIANS LOOK AFTER THE ASSETS OF THE HUNGARIANS

In Rumania the autonomy of the counties, towns and villages exists only on paper. In reality the above-mentioned autonomic bodies, instead of having elected councils and corporations, are under the control of so-called *interim commissions* appointed by the Government. In purely Hungarian places these commissions are formed so as to exclude the representatives of the Hungarian population. The material interests of the Hungarian inhabitants of the districts entrusted to their charge are of no importance to them, in point of fact they work against them. Here we shall mention only two cases as an illustration of their methods. A good long time before the war the town of Marosvásárhely built a concert hall that cost 2.225.000 crowns. The Hungarian State contributed 10% of that sum; the rest was subscribed by the Hungarian population of the town. The interim commission now wants to hand over this valuable property belonging to the town to the State. The Hungarians of Marosvásárhely energetically oppose this scheme. Real estate to the value of 20.000.000 lei which was the property of the Hungarian town of Nagyszalonta was sold by auction a few days ago, because the interim commission controlling the town's finances had neglected to pay the 1.500.000 lei still outstanding of the 7.000.000 lei borrowed years ago from the Rumanian Post Office Savings Bank. ("Keleti Ujság", July 19 and "Hírlap", July 28.)

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## RUMANIAN LECTURE HALL — HUNGARIAN MONEY

The "Astra" a Rumanian cultural union, has decided to build a lecture hall in Nyárádszereda, a purely Hungarian village. The necessary funds are to be raised by selling 210.000 "brick-tickets" to the population of the village. The tickets are sold in the weekly markets by men of the Gendarmerie, while the pupils of elementary and infant schools are ordered to buy the tickets from their teachers. The authorities refuse to consider the applications of Hungarian claimants until they have bought such a "brick-ticket". (Keleti Ujság, March 2nd, 1936.)

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## THE FREE USE OF MINORITY LANGUAGES

Paragraph 3, Article 8 of the minority treaty concluded at St. Germain on 9th December 1919 which guarantees the free use of any language in private or business life is not respected by the Rumanian Government.

In the county of Torda, for instance, *the campaign against Hungarian signs and inscriptions* is still being carried on. In the village of Nyárádremete the gendarmes ordered the inscriptions "Jesus blesses little children" and "Suffer the little children to come unto me" which were painted in Hungarian on the village school to be scraped off without delay. At Nyárádköszvényes the gendarmes ordered the Hungarian inscriptions carved on a *Székelykapu* (the ornamental gates of the Sicilians) erected in 1780 to be obliterated. At Mezöpanit the word "*Hangya*" (Hungarian for ant) had to be removed from the sign-board of the co-operative society. Escutcheons of historical interest were removed from the vestibule of the concert hall in Marosvásárhely, amongst others the ducal coat-of-arms of Gabriel Bethlen, Prince of Transylvania, who had the Bible translated into Rumanian. In Mezöpetri the banners were removed from the church, because the name of the village was embroidered on them in Hungarian. Decree no. 14.573/1936 issued by the Prefect of the county of Maros-Torda forbids newspapers, posters or advertisements to contain the Hungarian names of sport associations. ("Reggeli Ujság", July 3, 4, 6 and 10; "Keleti Ujság", July 5; "Brassói Lapok", August 1; "Népujság", July 23.)

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## WAR CRIPPLES MUST PASS LANGUAGE EXAMINATIONS

The dimensions of the language tests of which mention has been made over and over again in the columns of this paper may be judged from the fact that the Bucarest organ of the Rumanian war cripples, the "Drapelul Nostru" begins to insist on war cripples having to pass them. ("Népujság", July 24.)

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## LISTENING-IN TO THE BUDAPEST WIRELESS IN COMPANY PROHIBITED

Referring to orders from the Ministry of the Interior and the Prefect of the county, Municipal Police Headquarters in Szatmár (Satu Mare) *have forbidden the listening-in to Budapest broadcasts by open windows*. Offenders will have their licences taken from them and their wireless sets destroyed. The same prohibition has been proclaimed in Nagybánya. There it is also forbidden to listen to the Budapest programme in company. Offenders will be charged with agitating against the State. ("Ujság", August 6 and "Keleti Ujság" August 12.)

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## A STRICTER ANALYSIS OF NAMES AND RACE

By means of name and race analysis Hungarian parents are being forced to send their children to Rumanian schools, if any of their ancestors was a Rumanian or bore a Rumanian name, even when the

parents declare themselves Hungarians. M. Angelescu, Minister of Education, wants to make the application of this system of Rumanianization even stricter in the school-year about to begin. He has issued a decree to school-inspectors making them personally responsible if one single pupil of Rumanian parentage attends a minority school. Parents, therefore, whose names sound Rumanian or who have been discovered to be of Rumanian origin by the zealous name analysts, will not be able to exercise their rights as regards the education of their offspring. ("Brassói Lapok", July 10.)

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## ARTIFICIAL DEPOPULATION OF THE OLD REFORMED COLLEGE AT MAROSVÁSÁRHELY

The last decree issued by M. Angelescu, Minister of Education, has forbidden the Reformed Church Lyceum at Marosvásárhely to maintain parallel classes in the lower school. This will mean a loss of about 100 pupils, the number of pupils allowed in a class being 50. This is how the Rumanian Educational Department tries to depopulate one of the ancient secondary schools belonging to the Hungarian Reformed Church. ("Népujság", July 21.)

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## CENSORSHIP AND THE POST OFFICE

On March 19th the distinguished Vienna newspaper, the "Neue Freie Presse", referred to the fact that in some cities of Rumanian the delivery of letters and papers suffers considerable delay. It seems that the local authorities in some places follow their own free wills and keep the postal consignments back sometimes for ten or twelve days. Rumanians like to point out the importance of their country in Central Europe and the West, and Rumania often endeavours to exert her influence in international politics at international conferences. The Vienna paper finds it therefore difficult to understand that the central authorities in Bucharest are not able to exact a careful execution of their orders from their local agents.

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## YUGOSLAVIA

### LAUDATOR TEMPORIS ACTI

At the beginning of August the Yugoslavian Teachers' Association held a Congress at Újvidék (Novisad). M. Radivoi Lungulov, director of a school in Szabadka (Subotica), complained that the Government refused to extend teachers' pensions to the years during which they had been employed in Serb denominational schools in the Hungarian era. According to M. Lungulov, the national consciousness of the Serbs in the Voivodina had, at the time in question, been fostered just in the nationality and denominational schools. The Apponyi Educational Act of 1907, which was so thoroughly hated by the Serbs, had created a common pension fund and made the pensions paid to teachers in Serb national and denominational schools uniform with those paid to state school teachers. That was more than could be hoped for now. Bel-

grade's interpretation of the peace treaties was that the Government had done its duty if it provided for the welfare of state and municipal employees. Thus a Serb national extremist! His statements are an honest and noteworthy tribute to the equality of rights prevailing under the pre-war Hungarian regime.

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## THE AUTHORITIES KEEP ON PUTTING HINDRANCES IN THE WAY OF HUNGARIAN CULTURAL MOVEMENTS

In the month of July the Hungarians of Bezdán arranged a "Gyöngyösbokréta" peasant festival which was attended by about 200 people from the surrounding Hungarian villages. As the railway management refused to supply special trains and the 'busses received orders from headquarters to adhere strictly to their ordinary time-table, most of the people from a distance had to spend the night in the streets, because the inns were not allowed to remain open all night. It was also in the past month that the Hungarian Citizens' Choir of Újvidék (Novisad) held its annual general meeting at which it was stated that the Choir "for reasons over which it had no control" had not been able to arrange the concerts from the proceeds of which they had hoped to pay off the debt of 85.000 dinars incurred in connection with the erection of their headquarters. This in plain language meant that the authorities had refused the Choir permission to stage amateur theatricals in Hungarian or arrange concerts. The same thing has been going on for years in other centres of Hungarian intellectual life, as for instance in Zombor, Nagybecskerek (Petrovgrad) and Szabadka (Subotica).

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## TWO HUNGARIAN NEWSPAPERS TO BE ALLOWED INTO YUGOSLAVIA BUT NOT INTO THE DISTRICTS INHABITED BY HUNGARIANS

As is well known, newspapers from Hungary were not allowed into Yugoslavia. It was not till a few months ago that an exception was made in favour of certain short-story magazines and fashion journals. Now the Minister of the Interior — patently to encourage Hungarians to visit Yugoslavia — has extended the permission to the "Pesti Hírlap" and "Pesti Napló", but only for the summer months, and their circulation is limited to the Zeta, Littoral, Drave and Vrba Banates, so that they are not allowed into the districts inhabited by Hungarians.

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## HUNGARIAN PREACHING BANNED

In the village of Bács, which is one of the oldest Hungarian settlements and which at that time gave its name to a county, the Franciscan Order celebrated from August 6 to 9 the 700th anniversary of its settlement in the country. To the great indignation of the Hungarian population all sermons, by order of the headquarters of the Franciscans in Zagreb and Bishop Budanovic of Bácska, had to be delivered either in Croatian or German.

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