

# POLITICAL MOSAIC

## HUNGARIAN LIFE BEGINS AGAIN IN SOUTHERN HUNGARY

The lion's share of the credit for the liberation of Southern Hungary from Yugoslav rule is due to the Hungarian army. It was but natural, therefore, that the regiments returning home after the campaign were welcomed with scenes of wild enthusiasm by the inhabitants of Budapest and other Hungarian towns. With surprise, delight, admiration and a sense of relief they saw that the unselfish generosity and self-denying efforts of the nation had been successful in creating in so short a time such a well-equipped army, despite the distress for which Trianon was responsible. All through the country there was rejoicing to see that *Hungary is no longer a little country even from a military point of view; that her soldiers are no longer an army without weapons; that they are an army well-equipped with all modern devices, an army personifying to an increased degree all the ancient Magyar military virtues.*

In regained Southern Hungary military administration paved the way for the arrival of the civil authorities. In the towns and villages where a few days previously bands of fanaticized, murderous Chetniks had robbed, plundered and assassinated the inhabitants, *order was restored on the day that the Hungarian army marched in.* The trams were set going, the water-works and lighting plants repaired, the shops opened, and normal life began again. For the first time since twenty-two years, on 27th April the first passenger train to the Bácska that had not to cross the Hungarian frontier reached its destination, and this despite the fact that a few days earlier dislodged rails and blown — up railway bridges witnessed to the destruction wrought by the Serbs. For the present pontoon-bridges are doing duty for those destroyed. *Already on the third day of the Hungarian occupation tugs and barges started down the Danube from Budapest. On 12th May 12 fiscal offices and 99 post offices opened in the region between the Danube and the Tisza, 1 fiscal office and 33 post offices in the Mura district and 23 post offices in the Baranya Triangle. Telegraphic communication was also established, and a few days later the parcels post and telephone service began to operate.*

As soon as military administration was established, public supply offices were opened. Measures entirely free of red tape were immediately taken to provide industry with the needful raw materials. *It was announced that no reduction in wages would*

be permitted. Industrial works began to produce again and agricultural labourers were provided with occupation. Fortunately live stock is plentiful in the regained areas, the granaries are well filled, the amount of sown land is normal, crops promise to be good and damage by floods is minimal. The Hungarian Government at once began to pay the salaries of public officials and the pensions of retired employees and war cripples, for the present according to the scale prescribed by the Yugoslav laws.

## PIERRE DOMINIQUE'S ARTICLE ABOUT THE REGENT OF HUNGARY

Pierre Dominique, former chief of the French Press Service, published a very interesting article in the May 2nd issue of the "Journal". In it among other things he establishes the following facts: —

"In 1918 Hungary had a great naval commander. *He was the only man in the whole Dual Monarchy who could boast of successes on the seas.* That man was Admiral Horthy, the same whom in 1941 we find at the helm of the Hungarian State, and to whom Hungarian unity owes its existence. He has been the ruler of the country for twenty-two years now. This fact explains the results. "Our army has marched into Yugoslavia" — was announced by the Hungarian wireless. Yes, it marched into Yugoslavia, as in 1938 it marched into Czecho-Slovakia, and marched into Transylvania a few months ago. All these three actions were peaceful conquests, for the Regent of Hungary, though himself a military man by profession, does not desire military glory. *What he desires is results.*"

After these introductory remarks Pierre Dominique proceeds to describe the various phases of Admiral Horthy's activities. He shows that the restoration of the Hungarian areas was the natural consequence of the Regent's policy. The article closes with the following passage: —

"The Magyars are returning by slow degrees to their ancient national fireside . . . This is how things stand today. The historical lesson of the past twenty-two years is that no nation is ever vanquished so long as it clings patriotically to its traditions, is capable of choosing a leader and, having chosen him, of following him loyally. Admiral Horthy knows how to lead his people and the Magyars have proved capable of following him loyally. *It is almost twenty-three years now since Hungary was forced to sign the Treaty of Trianon.* Since then the country has gone through much, including a Bolshevist revolution with all its bloodshed and terror. Hungary, which in the Middle Ages was called the bulwark of Christianity, which fought the Turks for such a long period of time, and which dared to make a stand even against Jenghis

Khan, preferring to be trampled under foot rather than surrender, has borne everything and recovered from everything. How was this possible? It was possible because at the bottom of the abyss into which it was cast there was a man who seized it and slowly — I repeat the word — slowly carried it with him out of the slough of despair. The patience of Admiral Horthy has made it possible for a new generation to take part in the work of reconstruction. This new generation, that knew nothing of a defeat which is gradually fading away in the historical perspective, is now, led by a few veterans, on its way towards the South, as six months ago it marched towards the East. The whole, I venture to say, has been a masterpiece. *A masterpiece of brains and patience*, a great political achievement that will be remembered by history as a lesson to nations and their leaders."

### ONE OF THE MOST MODERN HEALTH INSTITUTES IN EUROPE

When throughout the whole of Europe war rages and the frontiers around us are ablaze, it is with particular pride that we report the opening in Kassa of a new health institute representing peaceful development and humanitarian progress. This new institute is merely one link in the chain of the splendid work being done *through the instrumentality of the Green Cross* by the Government, with the generous support of the population, to improve the health of the Hungarian villages. The Green Cross has been labouring indefatigably to this end for ten years now. Scattered all over the country there are 600 health institutes with 800 physicians and over 1000 nurses, who care for the health and welfare of the people under their charge. The Kassa health institute is not only the largest and most modern of the kind in this country, but is also without a rival in the whole of Europe. It is an important stone in the edifice of public hygiene. Its organization extends to all fields of human life. Besides consulting-rooms, observation wards and first-aid departments there are a series of offices for those who are engaged in spiritual, legal, psycho-technical and social work. The medical care of school-children, medical advice about sports, the care of the indigent, advice concerning the choice of a career and to those about to be married, are among the most modern social requirements of everyday life. All the latest triumphs of technical medical progress have been installed in the departments for the treatment of venereal diseases and tuberculosis and for the care of mothers and infants, as also in the dentistry department. A day-nursery for children whose parents are forced to leave them when they go to work, has also been established in the Kassa health institute.

Thanks to the same splendid social movement that erected this new health institute, the number of infants who died in 1940 was 25.000 short of the infant mortality figures 20 years ago, and 11.000 fewer people died of tuberculosis. It is also due to this movement that *a much smaller number of children die of diphtheria in Hungary than in any other country in Europe.* At the opening ceremony the Mayor of Kassa was fully justified in proudly announcing that "We want to have as few rickety children as possible, and instead of pale and wan faces to see the roses of health glowing on the cheeks of the little ones."

THE SUMS LENT DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS TO  
SET YOUNG MEN OF THE EDUCATED CLASSES UP IN  
BUSINESS APPROACH 17.000.000 PENGŐ

Four years ago the Hungarian Government created a National Board, the task of which was to issue to deserving young men of the educated classes loans that would enable them to set themselves up in independent businesses. It is interesting to note *that the number of loans requested by university graduates and the holders of secondary-school leaving certificates is gradually decreasing, while more and more are being asked for by young men with lower-grade certificates.* In 1937 the percentage of applicants with lower-grade certificates was 15, the year after it was 57 and during the past year and a half it has reached 80 per cent. During this last year and a half the Board has granted an aggregate sum of 4.600.000 pengő to 1176 applicants, 724.000 to university graduates, 1.060.000 to holders of secondary-school leaving certificates and 2.800.000 to young men with lower-grade certificates.

In the Budget for 1941 Parliament voted a sum of 2.400.000 pengő for this purpose. Besides this, the Government has empowered the Treasury to take up a loan of 5.000.000, so that *this year the sums available will amount to about 7.500.000 pengő, and the total since the action was started four years ago will approach 17.000.000.* The entire loan of 5.000.000 is to be spent on setting non-Jewish men of the restored areas up in business.

*The action has considerably exceeded its original dimensions* and is now playing an important rôle throughout the country in establishing a new class of non-Jewish commerce. The work being done in Subcarpathia by the Government Commissioner is worthy of special attention. A detailed register of the entire province has been compiled and the work of organizing non-Jewish trade is being successfully carried on. During the past eighteen budgetary months over 46.000 petitions were received by the Board and 65.000 letters despatched from its office.

## ORGANIZATION OF THE YOUNG RUTHENIAN INTELLIGENTSIA

A notable movement has been inaugurated in the public life of Subcarpathia. The young Ruthenian intelligentsia have begun to organize, in order to introduce freshness and vitality into Ruthenian public life. In this movement the racial consciousness and creative power of the Ruthenian people, which had been dormant for the past twenty years, have been awakened and are now striving to effect a social reorganization and promote the free development of Ruthenian culture. Any movement of this kind was naturally crushed by the authorities during the era of Czech occupation, but in the past few months the youth of Ruthenia have been discussing their programme of work with a growing impatience to begin it. The leaders of the movement, teachers, physicians, lawyers, etc., have created an independent organization of the educated youth of Subcarpathia. *The movement itself is based on the St. Stephen conception of the State; its standpoint is that Ruthenian and Magyar interests are identical; it does not occupy itself with current politics, but confines its activity solely to social and cultural affairs.*

On 30th April the leaders of the movement paid their respects to the Hungarian Premier. In the name of the delegation M. Stephen Fodor addressed M. de Bárdossy, who replied as follows:

"I cannot tell you how pleased I am with your visit and with the words addressed to me by your spokesman on behalf of the youth of Ruthenia. In those words I hear an echo of the tones of Rákóczi's Ruthenians, of the people known to us as "*gens fidelissima*". I am also touched by the fact that no alteration of the name was made in the address on the paper containing your signatures which was intended for my predecessor. *In that fact I see a symbol of your loyalty.* That paper was intended as a gesture addressed to the nation by way of its Premier. It was not addressed to his person, but to the nation as a whole, which gladly welcomes your intention and determination to support the Government in all its endeavours. I greet you with brotherly love, and with my whole heart pray that God's blessing may rest on your efforts, intentions and labours."

The Premier's words were loudly applauded by the whole delegation.

## RUMANIAN SCHOOLS IN TRANSYLVANIA

An article recently published in "*Le Temps*" (March 24, 1941) under the title "*La vraie Roumanie*", from the pen of a certain M. Leon Thevenin, is a curious piece of Rumanian propaganda, particularly as the French newspaper has hitherto

always been able to preserve a certain unbiased attitude in spite of its express sympathy for Rumania. We do not wish to enter into a discussion of such empty phrases as, for instance, the following: "It is particularly in Bukovina and Moldavia that you find peasants who can be proud without ever telling a lie and show respect without a tendency to flattery". Nor do we wish to criticize the author's remarks concerning the autumn revolution in Rumania, by which he endeavours to relieve the Rumanian element from the burden of responsibility. We propose to confine ourselves to the subject of minority schools in Rumania and to compare the author's description with the actual situation.

Among other things, the author states that during the Hungarian régime the Rumanians were not allowed to have more than one single secondary school and one teachers' college, but no institution of an academic grade; whereas, he says the Magyars in Rumania had 17 secondary schools, 25 colleges, 649 elementary schools, 6 teachers' colleges, agricultural schools, 3 commercial schools and 4 theological colleges, in spite of their comparatively small numbers in proportion to the other elements of the population. In this connection we would note that as early as 1754, when in Rumania proper there were not even elementary schools, in Hungarian Transylvania — at Balázsfalva — the Rumanians already had a secondary school of their own. And before the Treaty of Trianon the Rumanians in Transylvania had 6 secondary schools (at Balázsfalva, Belényes, Brád, Naszód and 2 at Brassó), 6 teachers' colleges, 4 senior schools — i. e. altogether 16 institutions of secondary grade — and 7 theological colleges. As regards the number of elementary schools, let us quote from Prof. Ghibu's book, published in 1915 under the title "Viata si organizatia...", where we find that in 1914 the Rumanians in Hungarian Transylvania had 2901 public elementary schools.

For the sake of justice we hasten to admit that in the year 1936—37 the Magyar minority in Rumania had 17—18 secondary schools (grammar schools and high schools), 4 commercial schools, 5 teachers' colleges, 3 training colleges for infant-school mistresses, 4 professional schools (all of them denominational, though) and 764 elementary schools (out of these: 250 Roman Catholic, 475 Reformed, 33 Unitarian and 6 Lutheran schools). Besides these there were 44 State schools provided with a Hungarian section. It must be added also that even the notoriously inaccurate Rumanian statistics admit that the number of Magyars in Transylvania was over a million and a half; which means that a million and a half Magyars had the above number of schools. On the other hand, the re-annexed areas of Transylvania contain 1,200,000 Rumanians, who have 1,345 elementary schools, 5 secondary schools (Naszód, Beszterce,

*Nagyvárad and 2 in Kolozsvár), 1 high school for girls (Nagyvárad), 3 teachers' colleges (2 at Szamosujvár and 1 at Nagyvárad) and, lastly, one household school for girls at Kolozsvár.*

### THIRTY-TWO HEALTH INSTITUTES OPENED IN TRANSYLVANIA

Much thought is being devoted by the Hungarian Government to the organization of public health arrangements in the restored parts of Transylvania. Public health institutions are now being organized. Combatting the diseases common among the peasantry confronts the Administration, especially in the restored areas, with a difficult task. The medical officers of *Nagyvárad, Szatmárnémeti, Zilah, Kolozsvár, Dés, Beszterce, Máramarossziget, Marosvásárhely Csíkszereda, Sepsiszentgyörgy* and *Székelyudvarhely* have now completed their lists of health institutes. Altogether 32 have commenced work in the restored areas of Transylvania within the last few days. The lighting and heating of the premises is supplied by the capitals of the counties, the towns and the larger villages.

OSZK

Országos Széchényi Könyvtár