

## POLITICAL MOSAIC

### VISIT TO ROME OF HUNGARIAN PREMIER AND MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

In conformity with diplomatic usage the Hungarian Premier and Minister of National Defence have paid visits to the Italian Court and Government. Like all his predecessors, the Prime Minister, after having paid his respects to the German Leader and Chancellor, visited Italy too. And it was in Italy that the Hungarian Minister of National Defence, General Charles *Bartha*, made his first official appearance abroad since his appointment to his present office. The *Hungarian Premier*, who was received with the same ceremony and solemnity as his predecessors, was received in audience by the Italian King-Emperor, subsequently visiting the Foreign Minister, Count Ciano, and the Duce, with whom he had a long interview. The Premier was received in audience also by the Pope, who showed a kindly and cordial interest in the questions of importance to Hungary today. A solemn reception was given also to the Minister of National Defence, Charles *Bartha*, who had audiences with the Pope and the Duce too.

The Hungarian Premier, who visited Rome also in his capacity as Hungarian Foreign Minister, arrived in Italy on June 2nd. and left that country on June 7th., while General *Bartha* arrived in Italy on June 9th. for a for days' visit. The Duce gave a dinner in honour of the Hungarian Premier and in his after-dinner speech stressed the importance of Hungary and the unchanged character of the friendly relations between that country and Italy. In expressing his thanks for the cordial welcome, the Hungarian Premier stressed that the Duce had been the first to offer a helping hand to the dismembered Hungarian nation. The Hungarian-Italian friendship was rooted in noble traditions dating back to ancient times. *He expressed a hope that the adjustment of the destinies of the nations of the Danube Valley would rest on the unassailable grounds of justice.* In a statement made to the Rome radio and press on

June 7th. the Hungarian Premier emphasised that he was grateful for the exceptionally cordial reception, adding that *the conversations carried on in that city had completely reassured him and offered every reason for the greatest optimism.*

A dinner was given in honour of General *Bartha*, Hungarian Minister of National Defence, by General *Cavallero*, who when toasting the guest of the evening stressed that *the advance of Hungary and the acknowledgment of frontiers more in harmony with the dictates of justice, was a natural consequence of the historical mission fulfilled by Hungary for a thousand years in the Danube Basin.* He spoke with appreciation of the Hungarian army, whose ancient prowess, combined with its traditions of valour, had always given it a great name. In his reply the Hungarian Minister of National Defence expressed thanks for the cordial reception and for the words of appreciation, and stressed the importance of the friendship between Italy and Hungary

## THE BUNYEVATZ PEOPLE OF THE BACSKA TESTIFY TO THEIR LOYALTY TO HUNGARY

On 2nd June — Whitmonday — the Bunyevatz people of the Bácska held a mass meeting in Szabadka, which was attended by several thousands of them. Amongst those present were Dr. *Ladislas Lipozenchitch*, former Mayor of the town, M. *Michael Prchitch*, member of the national assembly, M. *Coloman Pertitz*, president of the Trade Association, and a large delegation from *Zombor*. Four thousand people were packed in the hall where the meeting was held, and a crowd of eight or ten thousand people outside the building listened to the speeches transmitted through a megaphone. The Hungarian authorities were represented by General *Bittö*, military commander of the town, Dr. *Joseph Szmolenszki*, civilian *rappporteur* attached to the military administration in Southern Hungary, Dr. *John Völgyi*, chief notary of Szabadka, and others. The meeting was opened by M. *Julius Szkenderovitch*, a local landowner, who amongst other things said: —

"In 1848 the question was: should the Bunyevatz people join *Jellashitch's* insurgent Croat troops or the Magyars? Without a single exception the Bunyevatz people sided with the Magyars, and at *Kaponya* defeated the Serb insurgents. They set the seal of their blood to their loyalty to Hungary. *In the World War we fought bravely for our Hungarian fatherland,*

*and today we have no other wish than that things may again be as they were in the past."*

Another speaker was Dr. Joseph Mamuzhitch. The following striking passages from his speech deserve special mention. "This mass meeting was not convened by order, or by force, or even by the authorities. It was convened by the feelings in our hearts that cry for expression. The object of this gathering is to give us an opportunity of demonstrating that today we are what for centuries we were, honest, loyal subjects of the Holy Crown of Hungary. We wish to testify to the fact that in spirit we have not changed during the 22 years of alien oppression, that we are still linked to the Hungarian nation by the bonds of wellnigh 300 years of common labour, of good and bad fortune shared together... *We emphatically declare that what happened in 1918 was not the fault of the Bunyevatz people; it was the fault of certain Bunyevatz men who, to serve their own interests, to satisfy their lust for power and their vanity, for purely selfish reasons, that is to say, took it upon themselves to act on behalf of the Bunyevatz people...* We frankly and honestly admit that what happened then contributed to Hungary's ruin. Unfortunately there were Judases even among the Bunyevatz people, who without consulting us acted on their own initiative, dragging the good name of the honest Bunyevatz people in the mud. But I venture to assert that the honest Bunyevatz people never identified themselves with those men. We had no opportunity of protesting against their machinations; the bayonets of our oppressors prevented us from speaking freely and expressing our loyalty to the Holy Crown of Hungary and our fidelity to the Regent of Hungary... We want to live and work for our country, and we do not want to be regarded as a minority. We desire to be citizens of a country belonging to the Holy Crown of Hungary, citizens with the same duties but also with the same rights as the rest of Hungary's subjects. In the past we laboured, fought and shed our blood for Hungary, and should we be called upon to do so, we are ready to fight and shed our blood for the same cause again..."

M. Péró Baics, speaking on behalf of the War Cripples' Association of which he is the chairman, amongst other things said: — "If we were able to fight together with the Magyars in the World War and live together with them in the greatest harmony before it, we shall also be able to co-operate with them in the task of building up a new Hungary... We desire to be



loyal citizens of St. Stephen's Hungary, and are ready to obey all the commands of our only leader, Admiral Horthy, the Regent of Hungary. *If necessary we are prepared to fight with even greater resolution than in the World War, in order that the frontiers of St. Stephen's Realm may be fully restored and to prevent a repetition of 1918.*"

On behalf of the Bunyevatz and Shokatz people of Zombor and Baranya a speech was delivered by Dr. Gregory Vukovitch, former member of the Skupshtina, in which he said: — "We were not in the least surprised to find that Yugoslavia, that artificially constructed State, was doomed to fall to pieces. A State the majority nation of which made robbery, corruption and the oppression of the nationalities its chief aim, could not expect to survive. Yugoslavia's collapse was the logical consequence of the events preceding it. I may safely say, and you, Magyars, know that this is true, that not a single tear was shed by any of the Bunyevatz and Shokatz people for the late Yugoslavia. On the contrary, our hearts are full of joy and happiness, for with the collapse of Yugoslavia we have been delivered from the sufferings and oppression that were our lot merely because we dared to say that we are Bunyevatz and Shokatz people. We, the Bunyevatz and Shokatz people of Zombor and its surroundings, look forward with pleasure to the future, for the 12th of April was a day of deliverance, not only for the Magyars of these regions, but also for us, a day when we were set free from our bonds and from oppression... *It is with perfect confidence that we begin a new life in our old country, Hungary, a life which we hope will be the continuation of what was broken off in 1918.* We are filled with hope, because it is our conviction that the Magyars will continue to act with generosity; will not regard us as second rate citizens, as the Serbs did, but that they will look upon us as brethren who are eager to do their share in the work of ensuring a happier future for Greater Hungary. We are fully justified in expecting this, for the Hungarian nation, which like ourselves suffered much during the past 22 years, sees things in their true light and will be able to sympathize with our aims and appreciate the fact that of all the nationalities in former Yugoslavia it was the Bunyevatz and Shokatz people who suffered the most. The struggles of the past 22 years have forged such strong links between us and the Magyars that there is no power on earth that would be able to sunder us again... I am sure, in fact I know, that we do not need to ask for Bunyevatz

elementary and secondary schools, that we shall get them without asking for them, and that in every respect we shall enjoy equal rights with the Magyars... I beg General Bittó, as the representative of the Hungarian army, to convey to those in the highest places a message of our loyalty and devotion."

When the leaders of the Bunyevatz people had finished *their speeches, the meeting unanimously and with great enthusiasm resolved to send a telegram expressing homage to the Regent of Hungary. The text of that telegram runs as follows:*

"Thousands of the Bunyevatz people of Szabadka have gathered together to give expression to their joy at being once again under the sceptre of St. Stephen and their loyalty towards the Hungarian nation, which in good and bad fortune alike always treated them as brethren. With the greatest respect we humbly thank Your Highness for becoming the patron of the Bunyevatz people, who, true to the traditions handed down to them by their forefathers, are ready to labour and shed their blood for the prosperity of St. Stephen's Realm.

We beg Your Highness graciously to accept this expression of our heartfelt devotion and homage."

*When the resolution embodying this notable expression of loyalty had been passed the meeting dispersed.*

## SZÉKLERS FROM BUKOVINA SETTLED IN THE BACSKA

It had already been announced by the late Count Paul Teleki that some of the Magyars living abroad would be repatriated. The first to be considered were the Széklers of Bukovina, whose ancestors had fled thence 178 years ago to escape being slaughtered by the Austrian general Bukov's troops at the time of the "Massacre of Madéfalva". Preparations to repatriate them were begun last December, but it was only a short time ago that the plan was put into execution. The last of them, a group of about 1500, have now arrived in the areas regained from Yugoslavia, where they were awaited in their new homes in the old country by the rest of the Széklers of Bukovina. in number 13.000.

They were allowed by the Rumanian Government to sell their animals, and an arrangement between Rumania and the Hungarian Government provides for the disposal of their land and houses. Their animals were sold in a few hours, usually, of course, at a very low price, but that did not matter much to them. The greater part of their furniture and their church plate

they brought away with them. They had much to relate about their arrival at the frontier station of Kosna, where they were met by a delegation from the Settlement Commissioner's office, the commander of a regiment of the Frontier Guards, physicians, Green Cross nurses and social welfare workers.

*The Széklers were very pleased with this reception, but what touched them most was the warm welcome extended to them by the Magyars of the villages near their new homes.* In Topolya and Kishegyes pigs were slaughtered to provide a feast for them; in Maria-Major the girls of the village baked wedding-cakes for five young Székler couples about to be married, and everywhere the Magyars helped them with their work in the fields.

These fields have not been allotted to their several owners yet; they are being cultivated on a co-operative basis under the direction of an economic supervisor. *The populations of five large villages in Bukovina have been settled in twenty small settlement villages.* Among them are to be found Széklers who had fled to Hungary before the work of repatriation was carried out. Ten per cent of the people settled in those places are ex-servicemen and the families of soldiers who were killed during the campaign in Southern Hungary. What best shows the vitality and energy of the returning Széklers is perhaps the fact that it was only for a very short time that they availed themselves of the provisions distributed to them by the army. By 10th June most of the settlements had announced that they were now able to provide for themselves.

## HUNGARIAN LIFE PULSES IN RESTORED SOUTHERN AREAS

Hungarian life has begun to pulse again in that ancient part of Hungary which during the period of alien oppression struggled with exemplary zeal, with a perseverance the reward of which was often a martyr's sufferings, and *which had been the most fertile part of "a land flowing with milk and honey"*. In a remarkably short time the Hungarian army re-established peace and order in those disturbed areas.

Irrespective of race or language the people of this ancient part of Hungary welcomed their deliverers with scenes of wild enthusiasm. *Touching episodes gave proof of their attachment to the mother-country.* In every town and village festivities that will never be forgotten by those who witnessed them, pro-



claimed the joy of the inhabitants. To mention only some of the most striking celebrations, on 23rd May a crowd of 3000 people in Szabadka made a demonstration to show that they were Magyars. Among the speakers at this meeting was the Rev. Mr. Golozik, a Roman Catholic Prelate, who said in an emphatic manner — *"We do not wish to take revenge, for revenge is a weak weapon; our weapons have always been truth and justice. Justice, tolerance and reconciliation are our principles, as they were St. Stephen's principles a thousand years ago."*

Similarly impressive festivities were held on 30th May at Ujvidék, where, besides Magyar speakers, Herr Francis Hamm, representing the German racial group, addressed the meeting. He declared that it was inspiring for the Germans of Southern Hungary to know that they would take part in the work of reconstruction. In his closing remarks he said that the German people were loyal to their race and their country. On 3rd June the Bunyevaci of Szabadka held a mass meeting at which one of the speakers, M. Joseph Mamushitch, declared that the overwhelming majority of the Bunyevaci had always been loyal to the Holy Crown of Hungary, had always desired to live in Hungary, and in future wished to promote the good of that country, in which they hoped to live, not as a minority, but as *members of the Hungarian masses, co-operating with them to labour for the prosperity of their common fatherland, for which they were prepared to shed their blood.* Very impressive was the tattoo of the ex-servicemen held on 9th June, at which, amongst others, Herr Anthony Schweisler, speaking on behalf of the ex-servicemen of German race, stressed the point that they were one in a spirit of comradeship irrespective of race or language. Another speaker was M. Stephen Martcsekényi, M. P., who declared that *the Magyars received their comrades of other tongues with open arms; the table of Magyar hospitality was spread for all alike.*

Economic organization is proceeding rapidly in the restored areas. The first step was to establish the rate of exchange of the dinar, *10 dinars being taken as equivalent to 1 pengő.* The revaluation of shares and insurance policies in the areas regained from Yugoslavia has also been carried out. Railway, postal and telegraphic communication between those areas and the mother-country has been established, and reorganization in the fields of jurisdiction, education, internal administration and finance is in progress. An extensive programme of road-building is in process of elaboration. This is necessary because during the

Yugoslav era the roads were badly neglected and nothing in the way of constructing new ones was undertaken. The return of Roman Catholic and Protestant parishes to the bosom of their old Hungarian dioceses has also begun, that of the former through a decree issued by the Holy See. Bishop Raffay has announced the return of the Lutheran parishes, making it clear in his statement that *people of non-Magyar tongue are to be allowed the free use of their own languages in Church life. This right has in any case been ensured to the rest of the denominations, too, by the Government and the ecclesiastical authorities.* Large numbers of Magyars from Yugoslavia are being re-settled in the restored areas. Thus, for instance, 480 Magyars arrived at Ujvidék on 13th June. Groups of war-prisoners belonging to the restored areas who were captured either by the German or the Hungarian troops, are now returning to their homes again.

### THE HUNGARIAN MINISTER OF EDUCATION TOURS SUB-CARPATHIA

Immediately after the re-incorporation in Hungary of Sub-Carpathia there began an exceptionally intensive economic, social and cultural development. *The Culture Week of Sub-Carpathia presented in review the great cultural — particularly artistic — values of the re-incorporated Hungarian territory.* Then the Hungarian Minister of Education, Dr. *Valentine Hóman*, started on a tour of the province accompanied by M. *Nicholas Kozma*, Commissioner representing the Regent; the Minister subsequently toured Transylvania; and both tours suggested to the chief executive of Hungarian culture many ideas and projects to be carried into effect. In a statement made on May 27th, the Minister stressed that he desired to gather information respecting the educational problems to be solved and the condition of the schools of Sub-Carpathia. The cultivation of the ethnic peculiarities of the Ruthenians — he said — and the encouragement of individual culture finding its due place within the framework of the great Hungarian cultural community, is the only method by which we shall be able to further a profitable husbanding of resources as between Ruthenians and Magyars in keeping with historical traditions. The Minister of Education announced that in the course of his conversations he



had obtained a clear idea of the requirements the satisfaction of which would enable the Government to eliminate the deficiencies in the situation of the schools in Sub-Carpathia.

*"I was surprised" — said the Minister in his statement — "to see the lack of proportion in evidence as originating from the days of Czech rule. Whereas at Ungvár — undoubtedly with a view to impressing foreigners — there were magnificent buildings proclaiming the desire to spread culture, outside in the villages there are hundreds of school buildings in the most wretched state — dilapidated and dirty — which tell tales of the heinous carelessness of twenty years. On the basis of the comprehensive programme drafted by the Commissioner representing the Regent we have discussed a plan of campaign spread over a number of years the realisation of which will enable us to raise the elementary and secondary education of Sub-Carpathia to the level which post-Trianon Hungary has reached despite her dismemberment.*

OSZK

Országos Széchényi Könyvtár