

# HUNGARIAN WORK IN THE RE-INCORPORATED DISTRICTS OF SOUTHERN HUNGARY

BY

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Everywhere around us a war is raging; and the Hungarian Government is building. We have succeeded so to say in absorbing in every respect the re-incorporated districts of Southern Hungary which returned to the mother-country barely six months ago. This was particularly easy as regards population in view of the fact that a very large percentage of the inhabitants of Southern Hungary are Magyars and that the Magyars thus returning to their homeland placed at the disposal of the Government all their resources in order to ensure that the work of re-incorporation should be effected without a hitch in economic, social and cultural respects too.

*Last month the Hungarian Government continued the extensive constructive work begun in the months immediately following the re-incorporation.* Provision had to be made primarily for the improvement of the situation of the working classes — for opportunities of work and a human standard of life. During the month under review the Government adjusted the question of wages, raising the standard of wages allotted to workers in Southern Hungary to the level obtaining among the workers of the mother-country. The advance of prices incidental to the state of war naturally resulted in an advance in the cost of living; for that reason our Government took steps, not only in the mother-country, but also in the re-incorporated districts of Southern Hungary, to provide that the working classes should feel as little as possible of the effects of the rise of prices. For that reason the Government raised the wages of the workers and the emoluments of civil servants 15% — that being done by the issue of an Order in Council. In addition to

raising the level of wages, the Government also provides for employment for workers; and in the month under review alone — in a single town, viz. Ujvidék — the Hungarian National Labour Exchange secured work for no fewer than 2800 unemployed. The Government has taken various measures and introduced various schemes for the assistance of artisans and craftsmen. The relief loan system of the National Fund for the Encouragement of Artisans (to enable such to set up for themselves) has been extended also to Southern Hungary. Young artisans and craftsmen are allotted considerable loans to enable them to found independent existences. Government provides also for the supply of raw materials both to young artisans and craftsmen and to such as already possess independent establishments of their own. This will enable the Government to advance the industry of a region hitherto of a purely agrarian character and to create an industrial activity in branches not previously represented there.

*Apart from the adjustment of the labour questions Government is engaged in a large-scale work of construction in Southern Hungary in other fields too.* The neglected winter harbour at Ujvidék is being repaired, that raising Ujvidék to the position of the second largest winter harbour in the country after Budapest. These works have already been begun and are progressing rapidly towards completion. At Szabadka a few days ago the work of constructing the neglected water supply network and drainage system was begun. During the last 20 years Szabadka was in a state of such terrible neglect in this respect that as concerns its water supply system and its drainage it was on a level below even that of the most Balkan towns. Furthermore, the roads and streets of Southern Hungary — and in particular of the towns of that region — were in so deplorable a state that it would be difficult to find worse conditions in this respect even in the most neglected towns of the Far East. Our Government has begun the work of road-building on an intensive scale and has so far succeeded already in at least making the roads passable.

As for the agrarian production, the Government has commissioned the Chamber of Agriculture of the Region

between the Danube and the Tisza to represent the agrarian interests of the re-incorporated districts of Southern Hungary. It will be the duty of this Chamber to enhance agrarian production and to increase the intensiveness of animal-breeding to an extent *enabling the "Bácska" region to be once more the granary, not only of Hungary, but also of the whole Danube Basin.* The Chamber of Agriculture is preparing to distribute animals among the farmers, whose live stock has deteriorated as a consequence of the war.

In the field of popular hygiene great importance attaches to *the extension of the Green Cross Movement.* The Green Cross sisters allotted to the re-incorporated districts of Southern Hungary are unable, owing to their being too few in number, to fulfil the gigantic task imposed upon them; for that reason every possible form of benefit and concession is granted for the purpose of encouraging girls from Southern Hungary to acquire Green Cross certificates qualifying them to act as Green Cross sisters.

In cultural matters life is to begin everywhere during the present month. The secondary schools will open and the activities of the cultural associations, theatres and cultural courses will begin.

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