

POLITICAL MOSAIC

PREMIER BARDOSSY'S REPORT ON THE REGENT'S VISIT TO GERMANY

On 15th September M. Ladislas de Bárdossy, Hungarian Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, made his report to the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament.

M. de Bárdossy spoke of the Regent's visit to Germany, which was a fresh proof of the traditional friendship between Hungary and Germany, now more closely cemented by their joint struggle against Bolshevism, and which, from beginning to end, had taken place in the cordial atmosphere of that friendship. He then gave the Committee an account of the conversations that had taken place during that visit, conversations that proved the identical nature of the opinions entertained by the Hungarian and German statesmen on all questions jointly concerning both countries and the present situation. The same perfect agreement existed between the commands of both armies regarding the measure of Hungary's participation in the war against the Soviet which, allowing for a reasonable exchange of the Hungarian troops engaged, was to remain within the present bounds.

In conclusion the Premier made a statement about the situation in Hungary in general.

"THE GREATEST MAGYAR"

On 21st September the 150th anniversary of the birth of Count *Stephen Széchenyi* was celebrated in a manner worthy of the memory of the man whom *Louis Kossuth* described as "the greatest Magyar". Hungarians of all classes, all the towns and villages, did homage to the memory of that exceptionally gifted statesman who, while he strove politically for the liberation of the serfs and for Hungarian national aims, found energy to inaugurate *the regulation of the Hungarian rivers, the opening of the Iron Gate on the Danube for navigation, the building of the first bridge at Budapest — the famous Chain Bridge, — who took part in the work of establishing the first Hungarian bank, railway, roller mill and social club, who at an enormous sacrifice founded the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and contributed towards the improvement of horse-breeding by creating the first Hungarian jockey club.*

The most notable celebrations were held in the Budapest Concert Hall, where the Regent lit the "torch of remembrance", which was then carried all through the country. On this occasion, amongst other things, the Regent said: —

"Let us remember Count Stephen Széchenyi, the truest and greatest Magyar, whose deeds shone and whose memory still shines like a flaming torch. The memory of his spectacular life and inexhaustable creative power and his brilliant ideas have always been a guiding light for the Hungarian nation."

The memorial speech was delivered by Premier de Bárdossy. He said that *the real strength of the nation lies in the spirit of its own great sons and the results achieved by them.* He pointed out that the heart of the Greatest Magyar, who had ben sent by Providence to hold the mirror of selfknowledge before the nation that it should recognize its own racial qualities, had always been truly Magyar. He had been a man of action, and the will to create had flamed stronger in him than it ever had in any inhabitant of Hungary. His ideas were responsible for the turning of a "dusty, muddy Pest-Buda of winding alleys" into the present beautiful modern city.

"I feel" — continued Premier de Bárdossy — "that there is no more fitting way of doing homage to his memory than by repeating over and over again his ideas and teachings. To quote his own words, the task, as he saw it, was to raise the country to a higher level, save it from shocks and disintegration, and while everyone should regard his own belongings as sacred, to make as many of its inhabitants as possible happy!"

The Premier then quoted a number of Széchenyi's maxims that reflected the unparalleled richness of his intellect and heart. The root of all his ideas was the same: an unshakable belief in the force of moral and spiritual things and faith in the future of the Hungarian nation. At the conclusion of his speech M. de Bárdossy declared that after Mohi and Mohács, after Világos and Trianon, the Hungarian nation, reinforced and steadfast in spirit, was now again facing the storm, and faithful to its European mission was shedding its blood afresh. *"Following in Széchenyi's footsteps along the path he trod, we must dare to be great, but we must also be wise. We must have confidence in ourselves, in our own strength, but we must not be foolhardy."*

At the close of the memorial celebrations M. Joseph Varga, Minister of Commerce, delivered a fine speech and laid a wreath on Count Széchenyi's statue.

SITUATION OF MAGYAR MINORITY IN SLOVAKIA

Count John Esterházy, President of the Magyar Party in Slovakia, delivered three lectures at the Debrecen Summer University Course, in one of which he said:

„November 1938 marked the beginning of great changes for the reduced number of Magyars in Slovakia. The next few months were fraught with stirring events. Slovakia became an independent State, and that confronted her Magyar inhabitants with a whole series of new problems.

“When the German Reich had guaranteed her independence, Slovakia began to organize her political life on new foundations. *Besides a small number of Jews, Czechs and gypsies, about 100.000 Magyars, 150.000 Germans and 60.000 Ruthenians live in Slovakia alongside of the ruling Slovaks.* When Czecho-Slovakia ceased to exist, the German racial group in Slovakia immediately acquired extensive rights, securing a State Secretaryship, an independent educational department and full liberty to organize on a National Socialist basis in the fields of politics, culture and economy.

“For the Magyars there remained the Magyar Party; and within its framework we began the political, cultural and economic organization of the Magyars left in Slovakia.

“In the new State political life as such has ceased, for the executive power rules on totalitarian lines. The Slovak Party, the People’s Party created by Hlinka, is the Government Party. Besides this there are the German and Magyar Parties. All the others that remained over from the Czecho-Slovak era have been dissolved.

“The Slovak State sought to regulate its political life in the first place by means of laws. Slovakia, of course, had no historical Constitution, and was therefore faced with the task of framing one. *The new Constitution was passed in July 1939 by the Slovak Parliament, in which of its 63 members I alone represented the Magyar minority. According to that Constitution the Slovak State is a Christian and national community, the vocation of which is to reconcile social differences and all the conflicting interests of the various classes and groups.*

“Here I cannot enter into all the details of this fundamental law, but I would draw your attention to the articles dealing with the nationalities, to which the name nationality groups is given.

“Article 59 says that a nationality group participates in the executive power through its political party registered by the Government, if that party represents the political will of the entire nationality group.

“Article 93 runs as follows: ‘Ever nationality group living within the territory of Slovakia is entitled to organize politically and culturally under its own leader. Nationality groups and their members may establish and maintain cultural contact with their mother-nation.’

“According to Article 94 *nationality groups are entitled to*

use their own languages in public life and in the schools, this being provided for in a separate law. And finally Article 95 provides that the rights guaranteed to any nationality group by the Constitution shall be valid only in so far as the Slovak minority living within the territory of the mother-country of the group in question *de facto* enjoys the same rights. This Article establishes the principle of reciprocity and in practice applies solely to Hungary.

"Another very important law is Act 121 of 1940, which regulates the political rights of the nationalities, the first Article declaring that those political parties through which, in terms of the Constitution, the nationality groups participate in the political life of the State, must be registered by the Minister of the Interior."

"In terms of Article 2 the members of a registered party must belong to the nationality group it represents. Article 8 stipulates that the Government may restrict the activity of nationality parties in such measure as the activity of the party representing the Slovak racial group in the areas belonging to the mother-State of the party in question is restricted.

"These are the fundamental laws governing the political activity of the nationality groups in Slovakia, and it was on these terms that we began to organize our national life. We are restricted chiefly to social and cultural work, and I have no hesitation in declaring that we have done everything that was possible for us to do in those fields. In the first place, wherever that was possible, we formed local branches of the Magyar Party and kept records of every single Magyar and every Magyar family. *We regard as Magyar everyone whose opinions, mentality, education — in other words the sum total of his spiritual being — mark him out as a Magyar and who clings to the traditions of our past, undertakes the tasks of the present and works for our future aims.*

"The nature of our cultural work is determined by the circumstance that the Magyars remaining in Slovakia, though not large in number, consist chiefly of urban populations, and thus generally speaking have greater cultural needs to satisfy. The political, economic and cultural centre of the Magyars of Slovakia is Pozsony. The headquarters of the Magyar Party are there, as are also the only Magyar secondary schools left in the country."

"The Party devotes particular care to the Magyar schools, in order to provide for the education and training of the Magyar children. *For this purpose it has spared no sacrifice* to establish colleges in Pozsony for secondary-school and university students, thus ensuring that even the poorest of them from the most distant parts of the country shall receive cheap board and

lodging, and, under careful supervision, be able to pursue their studies in the Magyar schools.

"I shall now give you a list of the Magyar schools in Slovakia:

"8 State elementary schools with a total of 18 classes,
28 non-State elementary schools with 90 classes,
1 State board-school for boys with 6 classes,
1 auxiliary school with 1 class,
6 non-State infant schools with 6 classes.

"The number of Magyar teachers is 18.

"The number of pupils attending the State and denominational Magyar elementary schools is 4904, that of the pupils attending the board-schools 600.

"The number of pupils in the Magyar secondary school in Pozsony is 446.

"The Magyar teachers' training college in Pozsony has just been closed.

"There are also a two years' commercial school, 4 apprentice schools and one school of domestic science for girls. As stated before, all the Magyar secondary schools are in Pozsony.

"I should also note that the elementary schools in Slovakia are being completely reorganized. According to the relevant law now in force, all elementary schools must be either denominational or parish schools. In future there will be no State elementary schools, but teachers are to be appointed by the Government on the recommendation of the denominations or parishes, and they are to receive their salaries from the State. *In terms of the above law, in villages where there are 30 children of schooling-age belonging to any nationality group, that group may demand the establishment for them of a school with teaching in their own mother-tongue. If there are fewer than 30 but not fewer than 15 such children in the village, the nationality group in question may maintain a school for them at its own expense.*

"We begin the care of the young at the very earliest age. For this purpose we either maintain ourselves or support crèches and infant schools where the children of the poor are looked after while their mothers are at work. Through the parents' alliances we provide many children with food and school-books, and assist them with their school-fees.

"There is much work to be done in Pozsony, where about 3000 Magyar pupils attend the schools. Of that number 1100 are elementary pupils, 600 attend board-schools, 450 secondary schools, 200 commercial schools, 170 are university students, while the rest study at various other institutions. Besides their parents, the Magyar racial community looks after their welfare. To avoid misunderstanding it should be noted that at the

Pozsony University and Technical College all the lectures are delivered in Slovak. This, however, is no handicap to the Magyar students, for they learn Slovak perfectly in a surprisingly short time. Besides Slovak, most of them speak German too."

"During the summer vacation our labours continue, when they take the form of welfare work and of providing holidays for the young.

"But it is not only with the school-children that the Magyar Party occupies itself; so far as circumstances permit, we provide for the cultural needs of the grown-up youth. *Our amateur theatricals have reached such a high level that every season Magyar amateurs arrange a week of performances in the Pozsony theatre.* The theatre is always crowded with an audience eager to hear plays in Hungarian and enjoy Hungarian music. This achievement has surprised even Slovak official circles, and the Slovak Minister of Education himself was a member of the audience. That Magyar culture should not be confined to Pozsony alone, *we have begun to establish cultural institutes in other towns and villages inhabited by Magyars.* The Magyars appreciate the importance of this movement, and have generously contributed towards the establishment of those institutes.

"All that represents Magyar intellectual life, art, literature, etc., turns to the Magyar Party for assistance and does not appeal in vain. In this respect special mention must be made again of Pozsony. In that town Magyar life is particularly brisk. The headquarters of the Party are visited constantly by hundreds. Cultural and social organizations, in particular the 'Toldi Circle', fan the flame of national feeling by means of lectures and performances. The Magyar writers and poets of Slovakia have joined that Circle, and their works are published regularly by it. In *Pozsony* and *Nyitra* Hungarian songs are being cultivated with much skill and great success. The exhibitions in Pozsony of the works of Magyar artists always secure a moral and financial success. The most important Press organs of the Magyar minority are all published in Pozsony.

"From what has been said you will be able to form a picture of how Magyar families live in Slovakia and of the strength of will required to keep afloat in an alien ocean and preserve our racial traits. For the success of that endeavour we are dependent solely on the help of the Almighty and on our own energy, determination and self-sacrificing labours. From the executive power we do not ask more than what has been promised to us in the laws in force at present. *The Magyars of Slovakia have held and will hold their ground. All the members of that community feel that they are dependent on one another, and this sense of coherence makes them capable of achievements that are regarded with admiration. The self-discipline of the*

Magyars of Slovakia — a trait not very common to the Magyar people — is also astonishing.

"In my opinion the Magyars of Slovakia, especially of Pozsony, will be called upon to play an important rôle in the future. That town is a point of contact for three nations, three languages and three types of civilization. There we have the opportunity of acquiring a first-hand knowledge of new national aspirations, the intellectual movements and the ways of thinking of the Slovaks and the Germans with whom we have to live in a community of interests. And *vice versa* they have the opportunity of getting to know us, our good qualities and our valuable traits. These immediate contacts are of great importance today, for there are always people who, either because of a desire for self-assertation, or because they are prejudiced, try to present the Magyars to foreign countries in an unfavourable light."

SUBCARPATHIA DECLARES ITS ADHERENCE TO THE ST. STEPHEN PRINCIPLE

The new cultural organization of the Ruthenians, the "Ivan Kurtják Cultural Society", so named in memory of the deceased leader of the struggle for the freedom of Subcarpathia and its union with Hungary, held its constituent assembly at Szerednye on 15th September. It was at Szerednye, which had not been restored to Hungary by the first Vienna Award, that the first demand for re-union with Hungary was definitely formulated. In secret the signatures of those who were for re-union were collected, and many people who signed their names were cast into prison for it.

The constituent assembly was attended by large groups of Ruthenians of all classes from *Ungvár, Munkács and the farthest villages of Subcarpathia*. At the meeting *M. Ernest Melinics*, speaking in Ruthenian, outlined the aims of this cultural organization. In his speeches, delivered in Hungarian and Ruthenian, *Dr. John Boksay*, who was elected president of the society, declared that its aim was to shepherd the Ruthenian people who had been swept away by the various political currents back to the right channel and raise their cultural level. *Dr. Boksay* also spoke of *the statement made by Dr. Benes, President of the former Czecho-Slovak Republic, in his London speech in August to the effect that Subcarpathia would belong to Czecho-Slovakia again.*

"*Here in Subcarpathia*" — said *Dr. Boksay* — "*we Ruthenians cannot let that statement pass without comment, however impossible it is that Benes's prediction should come true. We, the Ruthenians of Subcarpathia, were for seven centuries the loyal partners of the Hungarians in all their good and bad fortune. On behalf of us all I address the following appeal to the*

Ruthenians living in America: 'Do not allow strangers who have no mandate from the leaders here at home to settle the affairs of the Ruthenian people, and do not submit to foreign interference.' That would not be of advantage either to the Ruthenians of America or to the people here." He then continued as follows.

"Speaking on behalf of the Ruthenian people, I loudly proclaim to the whole world that Benes has nothing to do with us, that we will not be bargained over by him. From Szerednyc send the following message to him and his friends: 'Once you were successful in enslaving the Ruthenians, but you will not be able to do so a second time. You have nothing to do with us and we will have nothing to do with you. We desire to live within the framework of the Hungarian State in adherence to the St. Stephen principle and with full liberty to live our own racial life. For this, if necessary, we are prepared to fight'."

The above speech was interrupted several times by the audience, simple Ruthenian peasants, poor woodcutters and more well-to-do people, with unanimous cries of

"We want to belong to Hungary!"

The next speaker was M. Nicholas Kozma, the Commissioner appointed by the Regent, who delivered an address first in Ruthenian and then in Hungarian. He declared that the Hungarians and the Ruthenians were linked together by numerous ties. Centuries of common history, the same religion and culture and the identity of their economic aims were all factors that helped to band the two nations into one community of interests. Now a new generation was ready to enter the lists.

"This new generation" — said M. Kozma — "must labour to promote the welfare of the Hungarian nation and the Ruthenian people within the framework of the Hungarian State. The Hungarian Government and the nation have given proof that since its return Subcarpathia has been treated like a favourite child of the mother-country, and never since the Carpathians arose from the depths of the ocean were the Ruthenians so well cared for as now. Of late so much has been done for them in the sphere of economy that it would be difficult to find a precedent."

M. Kozma then went on to say that Subcarpathia was now in the forefront of European politics.

"An attempt was made" — he said — "to spirit away a whole people, but everyone knows that it was made in vain. Where are the alluring dreams that led so many astray? what has become of the Pan-Russian idea, an idea that today has no roots and no intelligentsia to support it, an idea whose claims to Ruthenia based on literature and art have been disproved? It went, leaving a devastated, improverished country behind. But the game went on in the name of Ukrainism. Where, I ask you, is the Ukraine promised by the propagandists?"

M. Kozma announced that *Subcarpathia* was to use the blue and red flag of the *Rákoczi*s. He then described the Hungarian Government's policy for Subcarpathia, emphasizing the point that that area was an organic part of the Carpathian Basin, and that in obedience to natural laws the Ruthenians could expect to find a livelihood and prosper only if they turned their faces towards Hungary.

"The Ruthenians" — he said — *"cannot hope to remain Ruthenians unless they live in Hungary, for the two languages, Ruthenian and Hungarian, are so totally different that the latter cannot be a menace to the former. Symbiosis with any Slav race would threaten the 550.000 Ruthenians with the danger of racial extinction through assimilation."*

In conclusion the Commissioner pointed out that the speeches heard at the constituent assembly of the new cultural society had been pregnant with the spirit of the St. Stephen principle. That principle alone would be capable of safeguarding peace, prosperity and amicable symbiosis in Subcarpathia, and it was that principle which would ensure the cohesion, geographically and economically, but also in a spiritual and political sense, of the whole Hungarian nation.

HUNGARIAN LOSSES IN MEN IN FIRST GREAT WAR

The effects of a war are reflected in many different ways. Some countries are aggrandised territorially, while others forfeit considerable areas of territory; the economic balance is upset in some places, or other forms of balance are re-adjusted. But war also demands the sacrifice of human lives; and the loss in men caused by a particular war is often disastrous in its effects. A considerable number of men are killed — though aerial warfare demands the lives also of large masses of civilians, even of women and children, besides crippling and disabling for life masses of other victims; while there is a material decline in the number of births, resulting in a set-back in the natural increase of population which involves a decrease also in the numerical strength of the population.

The question of the set-back in the number of births has been discussed already in many places. Much less has however been said concerning the loss of life suffered by the peoples taking part in the war of 1914/18 shown by the number of combatants killed in action and the further loss involved by the number of disabled persons who, apart from having dropped out of the ranks of the working section of the population, have usually died more rapidly than others from the wounds or diseases received or contracted respectively at the front.

This question was first discussed seriously by a German statistician, whose valuable data we believe should be made more public. In his book „*Handbuch für das gesammte Deutschtum*” (Manual for the German People) *Wilhelm* submits figures showing the severity of the relative losses suffered during the first Great War by the several States. He establishes the fact that the proportion of men killed in action to every thousand men of the age of 20—45 was as follows: — in Hungary, 187, in France, 182, in Austria, 166, in the German Empire, 101, in Great Britain, 88, in Australia, 60, in Canada, 33, in New Zealand, 73, in Belgium, 25, in the United States of North America, 3.

The most striking thing about the data given by the German statistician is that even the objective outsider shows that *we Hungarians suffered the greatest relative losses in the first Great War*. A very large number of men had to be sacrificed in the cause of a war the end of which was even more bitter than the actual fighting itself. It is only when we investigate the real significance of the losses in men suffered by Hungary in the Great War that we shall be able to offer a comparison between the mortality as increased by the war casualties and that of the normal years of peace.

In Hungary the mortality index shows that the proportion of men of 20—45 years of age dying in normal peace years was 8.1 to the thousand. Under normal circumstances, therefore, the proportion of men of the said ages dying in four years was 32.4 to the thousand. But during the four years of the first Great War the number of Hungarian men dying was 187 to the thousand — *i. e. roughly six times as many as in normal times*. The seriousness of the losses in men suffered during the Great War will be even more striking when we add that the number of men dying in Hungary during the years 1914—1918 was as great as that recorded under other circumstances in a quarter of a century: that will enable us to judge the significance of the question more clearly.

So serious a loss was not suffered by any other State; for the war losses of France were themselves slightly better, while those suffered by Germany were more decidedly better, despite the fact that the losses in men suffered by the Germans during the Great War were also enormous. Taking the same basis of calculation as above, we may establish the fact that the losses in men suffered by Germany during the Great War were five times as great as those shown by the mortality of normal years — that meaning that Germany in four years lost as many men as she would otherwise have lost in 20 years.

Far more favourable relatively is the situation in the list of sufferers of Rumania, Bulgaria and Italy. Rumania and Italy only entered the war at a later period, their losses in men being in consequence absolutely smaller, while the rapid occupation

of the Rumanian territories saved the Rumanian people from suffering any material loss of civilian life. The situation was the same in Belgium too; for that country was rapidly occupied; though its losses in men were less also because its soldiers included in their ranks a large number of persons of foreign nationality. That is one reason explaining why *Britain, Australia and Canada* sacrificed so many lives and had to bear so large a quota of the toll of blood which the Great War demanded of humanity. That there were Canadian, Australian and New Zealand losses, is only natural; but it is remarkable that Great Britain, which after all played rather a secondary part in the actual fighting, should have to record so large a number of deaths in action. The losses of the U. S. A., naturally dwindle to insignificance compared with those of the other countries.

The losses suffered by the villages (parishes) inhabited exclusively by Magyars and Germans were the greatest among those incurred by Hungary.

Wilhelm's interesting work considers it important also to give a detailed statement of the Hungarian figures. When doing so he shows that *the proportion of men of the age of 20—45 killed in action was 112 to the thousand in the districts inhabited exclusively by Magyars and Germans*, while the proportion of men of the said age killed in action in the other districts was as follows: — in purely Slovak districts only 95, in purely Rumanian districts only 95, in mixed Serbian districts only 89 and in mixed Ruthenian districts only 48 to the thousand.

The losses in men incurred during the Great War in every respect affected the Magyars most seriously; it being the Magyars that had to sacrifice the greatest number of honest workers.

The losses in men suffered in the first Great War were serious. Today — 22 years after the end of that War — we still feel the effects of those losses; indeed, in all probability the gratifying increase of territory that has fallen to Hungary's lot will once more throw into relief the shortage of men caused by the Great War. It is therefore imperatively necessary to deal with the question and to point out what the real cause of the shortage of men is. We lost many men — very many; for *in the course of four years the ranks of working men were thinned to the extent of the usual rates of mortality of twenty-five years*, while at the same time mighty masses of men came home invalided or disabled, being in consequence compelled to seek employment in other fields and to fall out of the ranks of those engaged in the work of production. It is therefore comprehensible that in order to strengthen the position of the Hungarians, efforts must be made to avoid any further losses in men and to enhance the ethnic forces of the Magyars by repatriating the Magyars torn from us.

SIXTY PER CENT. OF INHABITANTS OF SERBIA —
ILLITERATES.

It is reported from *Belgrade* that M. Jonitch, inspector in the Serbian Ministry of Education, has made a statement respecting the educational problems of this country which offers an interesting sidelight on the intellectual conditions in force in the former Yugoslavia; and at the same time the inspector described the efforts being made to give the educational policy of Serbia a new direction.

In its opening words the statement made by the inspector (ministerial commissioner) pointed out the contrasts existing in Serbia in respect of culture and intellectual standards. On the one hand there are the villages with a patriarchal-peasant culture; while on the other hand we have the urban hypercivilisation: the love of justice of the rural population being in glaring contrast to the corruption of the townfolk. There is a gulf fixed between the two sections of the population with their divergent standards; and there is no link connecting them. The catastrophe suffered by the country was caused by the educated classes of the towns. When Yugoslavia was established, international capitalism regarded the new State formation as its colony, which it subjected to its domination, not only economically, but in intellectual respects too. This system found loyal henchmen in the successive Governments; and the various ministers, though in public they fought against internationalism and stressed national slogans, as members of the boards of directors or committees of supervision of the big undertakings obtained unlawful profits out of the spoils of international capital. *Many of the most influential university professors — and indeed of the headmasters and masters of secondary schools — were freemasons. These men, under the guise of "progress", treated the younger generations to an education of a radical (Left) character, the result being that the educational institutes became hotbeds of communism.* The party politicians did not shrink even from exploiting the youth of the country for party ends. In this way the educated section of the Serbian people became entirely diverted from its national feelings and national consciousness.

Such a state of things naturally resulted — continued the ministerial commissioner — in public education being completely out of touch with the requirements of the nation.

In the organisation of the schools other States were copied which stood on a far higher level of culture. Large numbers of "gymnasiums" (higher-grade secondary schools) were opened, whereas there was an entire neglect of agricultural and technical professional education. That was how there sprang into being the grotesque situation in which the masses of young men who

had passed "gymnasiums" formed an intellectual proletariat, while on the other hand the country was quite unable to train fully qualified industrial and agricultural experts.

Speaking of the tasks of the future, M. *Jonitch*, ministerial commissioner, above all stressed that the public education of the country must be organised uniformly. The various types of schools had so far been subject to the jurisdiction of various departments; now that situation was to be put an end to, all schools to be made subject to the control of the Ministry of Education. The programme of the secondary schools was to be materially changed, while public education was to be freed from the influence of freemasons and the radical (Left) elements. *The outlook on life will in the future no longer be every man's own private affair. The head of every school will be responsible for the intellectual (spiritual) attitude of the teachers or masters subject to his control; while every teacher or master will be responsible for the outlook on life of his pupils.*

The development of agriculture — continued the ministerial commissioner — necessitates the adequate professional training of the younger generations; but it cannot be allowed that the pupils of the agricultural schools who have finished their studies shall obtain comfortable berths in some State institution. In the future these pupils will be required to return to the soil. The country needs trained farmers able to cultivate the soil in a manner ensuring that that soil shall produce, not only enough to meet the inland demand, but a quantity allowing of export surpluses too. In Serbia trained farmers have always been very influential men. Commissioner *Jonitch* cited an instance in point — the case of a farmer who had passed a secondary school and installed an electric plant in his village; that farmer was more highly respected in the whole neighbourhood than if he had been a minister.

One of the primary tasks confronting the department of education was how to overcome or at any rate decrease illiteracy. To that end a general campaign is to be started against illiteracy. *At the present moment 60% of the inhabitants of the country are unable to write.* Some of these illiterates have indeed attended elementary schools; but they have never had an opportunity in life to utilise their knowledge, the result being that they have forgotten all that they learned at school. He is however personally convinced — continued the ministerial commissioner — that the Serbian people is imbued with a keen lust of knowledge. In one village, for instance, he had found a "*Robinson*" book scarcely a page of which was whole. But it was the only book in that village, and everybody wanted to read it. That was why it had been so badly used. In this respect too the elementary teachers have important tasks to face. In the future the teachers will be required, not only to teach in the schools, but also to

carry on an extra-mural cultural activity. It will be the business of the teachers to organise the village (parish) cultural associations; and every cultural association will be given a library.

The education of girls is also to be very considerably reorganised; and an endeavour is to be made to put an end to prevailing conditions. For so far the younger generations of women have after finishing their schooling swamped the civil service, thereby on the one hand lessening the chances of employment open to men and on the other hand entirely neglecting their vocation as wives and mothers.

IMPORTANT ORDER IN COUNCIL ON SOCIAL INSURANCE

In the August 20th issue of the Official Gazette Order in Council No. 5960/M. E. ex 1941 — containing amendments of the social insurance measures — was published. The measures contained in the Order — which are of far-reaching significance from the socio-political point of view — may be divided into three principal groups.

The first group embraces those measures which considerably raise the social insurance allowances in favour of the employees — this improvement being effected alike in the case of sickness and accident insurance and in that of old age and disablement insurance.

In the case of sickness insurance *the amount of compensation is to be increased by 10%.*

Under the present measure *accident allowances will advance by 15%* in proportion to the scale of the supplementary wages.

The old age and disablement insurance compensations have been raised by the Order both in respect of the original (fixed) and the gradational supplementary allowances. The amount of the former is being *increased from 126 to 150 pengő*, while the amount of the latter is to be raised by 15%, also in proportion to the scale of the supplementary wages.

Within the framework of the old age and disablement insurance means are taken as far as possible to solve also the problem of increasing the pension allowances of employees of private enterprise (bank and other clerks, etc.) insured with the pension institutes maintained by the undertakings.

The Government regards as a duty of prime importance the strengthening of the position of Hungarian families. That is why it has abandoned the principle hitherto enforced of allotting insurance compensations *equally* to all employees irrespective of their family circumstances.

In addition to raising the amount of birth relief grants the Order prescribes *the increase of the cash and other compensations in favour of married persons and persons with families (children).*

An epoch-making importance attaches to the system of *supplementary compensations* payable to persons who are married — fixed amounts for wife and each child —, an entirely novel kind of compensation so far quite unknown in the field of social insurance.

Apart from increasing the old age and disablement insurance compensations the Order raises the *supplementary child allowance* by 100% and invalidates the provision hitherto in force which restricted the amount of such allowances to not more than one-fifth of the original compensation. *In the future*, therefore, the child allowances will be payable unrestrictedly irrespective of the number of children.

The furtherance of the possibilities of founding families and thereby of the increase of population is the object of the provision in terms of which every insured woman who marries is *entitled* after the lapse of 100 weeks to receive a *marriage composition* (lump sum compensation).

A provision of importance from the point of view of family protection is that which ensures the members of the families of insured men engaged in military service the payment for a period of six months from the time at which the insured join their regiments of social insurance relief (grants) without any return (without the payment of contributions or insurance fees).

We may include in the *third* group of provisions those which affect the obligation of insurance and the social insurance autonomy and administration, as also those which serve the purpose of rendering the regulations hitherto in force clearer and less open to dispute.

The Government deserves special gratitude for realising this social insurance reform of such far-reaching importance *in the case of sickness insurance without raising the scale of contributions (fees)* and in that of old age and disablement insurance by merely raising the social charges by $\frac{1}{2}$ %.

The Order in Council of such importance — which affects every class of the population alike — appeared, as already stated, in the St. Stephen's Day number of the official gazette.

IRRIGATION CANALS: RICE PRODUCTION

The purpose of the Irrigation Act passed in 1937 is to make every foot of soil in the Great Hungarian Plain productive. The extensive works already in progress have by now turned lands that were formerly practically barren wastes into flourishing areas of production. *Four systems of irrigation canals to cost eighty million pengő are being constructed*, and on the Tiszafüred section irrigation farming began in 1940. Besides this one, the Békésszentandrás section is now ready, as in also the great irrigation system of the river Tisza starting at Tiszalök.

At Hódmezővásárhely the construction of canals which are to irrigate 15.000 cadastral yokes is to be begun this year.

The major work was the construction of the Tisza irrigation system at a cost of sixty-five million pengő; and that work was begun this July. *This irrigation system, taking advantage of the natural fall in the level of the Tisza at Tiszalök, draws from it 60 cubic metres of water per second and waters 200.000 cadastral yokes.* The main channel, starting at Tiszalök, passes through Búdszentmihály, Hajdúnánás and Balmazújváros to join the Berettyó canal below Berettyóújfalú. *Its length is about 100 kilometres and it is deep enough to be navigable by barges of 1000 tons.*

This canal will not only serve the purpose of irrigation, but will also be otherwise of great advantage to the part of the country through which it runs; for by linking it up with the other waterways in the country, *it will provide a cheap means of transport for agricultural produce.* *The length of the branch canals will be over 100 kilometres; they will pass through an area of 500.000 cadastral yokes, of which it will be possible to water 200.000 at a time.*

The Regent of Hungary, who is one of the best farmers in the country, was the first to advocate the idea of a general irrigation scheme, and to set an encouraging example, he was one of the first to use the water supplied by this canal for rice-growing. The Regent began to grow rice last year on barren, sodaic soil. As an experiment he began with one and a half yokes of land. *The result was astonishing. Those one and a half yokes yielded 25 quintals of rice, or 17 quintals per yoke.* Encouraged by these initial results, he planted rice on 18 cadastral yokes this year. *The crops were even heavier than last year.*

RUMANIANS OF HUNGARY FORM CENTRAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

The July issue of the "Tribuna Ardealului" of Kolozsvár, an organ of the Rumanians of Hungary, announced with satisfaction that the Hungarian Government had given permission for the formation of a central Rumanian co-operative society in Hungary, to be named the "*Plugarul Centrale Cooperativerol Romanesci*". With this official permission the Rumanian co-operative societies have now a central organization to direct and assist them. The Rumanian periodical says that the formation of this central organization is a matter of great importance, and emphasizes the point that *it is an application of the principle of equality.* It states that at the same time Rumania has permitted the Hungarian "*Hangya*" co-operative society to modify its

statutes so as to allow of the establishment of Hungarian co-operative societies in Rumania. The headquarters of the "Plugarul" will be in Kolozsvár.

The "Tribuna Ardealului" expresses the hope that *it will be possible for Hungary and Rumania to arrive at an agreement in terms of which the question of the existence and growth of Rumanian banks in Hungary and Hungarian banks in Rumania will be settled on the principle of reciprocity.*

SERBIA LEARNS TO ECONOMIZE

"The situation created by the war and the consequent need of economizing" — these are the words with which almost every order issued by the civil authorities in Serbia, now under German occupation, begins. *The situation created by the war makes economy imperative all along the line*, economy in public offices and reduced salaries and wages in every undertaking, for little Serbia is no longer able to pay her employees so well and maintain so great an apparatus on her remaining territories as did Yugoslavia with her 15 million inhabitants.

The position of army officers in Serbia is a peculiar one. Some of them were taken prisoners of war, others are virtually prisoners. The latter have been registered, and although they may remain with their families in Serbia, they are considered as prisoners of war on parole, as is every man who in terms of the Yugoslav Mobilization Act of 5th April 1941 ought to be serving his military term. With reference to the situation created by the war the Government, or as it is now called the Council of Ministerial Commissaries, has regulated the payments of army officers and State officials made prisoners of war. Army officers in particular are badly affected by the Ordinance doing so, for a general, for instance, who has been taken prisoner or declared to be a symbolical war-prisoner, cannot receive more than 2500 dinars a month, and every Serb general, like every other officer of the regular army in Serbia, is either a prisoner in camp or a symbolical prisoner in the bosom of his family. Majors and colonels receive 2000 dinars, lieutenants and captains 1500, and non-commissioned officers 1000. The situation is practically the same with the civil officials who are regarded as war-prisoners. Those of them who were in classes I to III, Ministers, heads of departments etc., receive 2500 dinars, those in classes IV to V, 2000, those in classes VI-to IX, only 1500, while temporary clerks, messengers and lower-grade employees are paid only 1000 dinars a month. The same rules apply to those who have been pensioned; no matter what a man's rank may have been when he retired, he cannot receive more than 2500 dinars a month. As regards pensions, this rule applies not only to army

officers, but also to all retired civil servants. It does not apply to State employees who are still in active service, and if any such are army officers who have been taken over by the civil administration, they — although considered prisoners of war — are to receive their former salaries which, however, have been decreased by the deduction of various extra allowances, emoluments paid in kind, etc. Serb army officers, who were very well paid, will feel these cuts badly, but the civil population has not much sympathy to waste on them, *for it was the behaviour of this sabre-rattling caste that brought about Serbia's downfall.*

There is an interesting office in Brankova Street in Belgrade. It is a department of the Ministry of Finance and its task is to liquidate the Ministry of War completely. Defeated Serbia is not allowed to keep any army whatever, so there is no need of a Ministry of War, and the work of liquidating all its departments has been begun by the above-mentioned office.

Prices in Belgrade are very high. Lard costs from 60 to 70 dinars a kilogramme. The maximum price fixed by the authorities is, of course, much lower, and day by day butchers find themselves arraigned in court for demanding more than the legal price. One thing that is cheap enough in Belgrade is firewood; but the quantity is limited. Firewood tickets have now been issued to the population, the quantity per head being one and a half cubic metres. The maximum wholesale price of first-rate beech logs is 2700 dinars per cubic metre; retail prices have not been fixed yet.

Day after day interesting decrees are published in the Belgrade papers. One of the latest is the decree regulating the so-called "minor frontier traffic", which prescribes how people living in Serb frontier villages who own land on both sides of the frontier may cross into Croatia and Bulgaria. The question of foreign travelling has also been partially regulated, and passports are now being issued, but no visas for Germany are obtainable, as Serbs are not yet allowed to visit that country. Only seasonal workmen are allowed to go to Germany with special permits. *If someone from Belgrade, or any other Serb citizen, desires to visit Croatia, he must procure an official visa, which is issued by the Croat Club in Belgrade.*

Bad times have come for the holders of free railway tickets. It is well known that free tickets were given indiscriminately in Yugoslavia, apart from the fact that the rules regulating the issuing of free tickets were extremely liberal. Ministers made presents of first-class free tickets to their friends and electioneering agents, and not only to single persons, but also to whole groups. This abuse was one of the evils peculiar to that Balkan country, and railway officials constantly complained that the passengers who paid for their tickets were

seldom able to get seats in the railway carriages, especially in the first class; that in fact perhaps nobody who travelled first-class ever paid for his ticket, all of them travelling with free passes. The Government has now issued a new and strict decree. *In terms thereof no one but an active Minister is entitled to a free pass.* Certain public offices have the right to ask for free tickets for their officials, but they must be paid for by the Ministry to which these offices are subordinate. Such offices are the Customs, the Gendarmerie and the Police, etc. State employees are entitled to a 50% reduction, as are also war cripples and journalists, as well as unemployed workmen searching for jobs. No one but the Ministers are to receive free passes that are not paid for by some office, not even editors of newspapers.

"*We Serbs are a little, poor, and culturally backward nation*", writes the editor of a Belgrade Government paper.

Jovanovitch Milan Stoimirovitch, former editor of the official organ of the Yugoslav Radical Party, is now publishing a new paper in Belgrade entitled "Obnova" (Renaissance). In it he wrote an article in which amongst other things he stated that Belgrade is full of refugees who must be made to understand the new historical situation. During the past twenty years Belgrade proved incapable of governing the State and must now be content to safeguard the cultural guidance of the Serbs.

In another article Stoimirovitch says that Serbia is a country of disillusioned and disagreeably surprised people. He warns the Serbs that they must remember three important things, namely that "we Serbs are a little, poor, and culturally backward nation".

M. NEDITZ, SERB PREMIER'S DRAMATIC APPEAL

General Neditz — as we know — received permission from General Dankelman (Air Force), commander of the German troops occupying Serbia, to form a Cabinet and organize a national guard of 60.000 men. On 15th September General Neditz spoke over the air from Belgrade for the second time, on which occasion, amongst other things, he said:

"Serb Brethren, in these historically grave and tragic moments I speak to you frankly and sincerely. I wish to give you another warning, lest anybody should say that nobody drew the people's attention to our serious and tragic situation. *Serbs, your country is on the verge of civil war, of the most terrible civil war imaginable.* The responsibility will be borne, not only by those who wish for it, but also by those who do nothing to prevent it and those who begin it. All the enemies of our country are co-operating in an endeavour to create anarchy. *Revolu-*

tionaries are blowing up the bridges left, are tearing up the rails and endangering the food and firewood supplies of the population. You must know that the German troops have no need of our means of communication, for the scene of their war is now far removed from our country. Anyone, therefore, who works destruction is merely helping to make certain that thousands of Serb children will starve to death this winter, and that our people will have no fires in their houses. The object is to create a state of anarchy in which brother will strive against brother and father against son."

"Should" — continued M. Neditz — "the occupying army take punitive measures against Serbia because of these depredations, *no single town or village will be left undamaged, families will be ruined and Serbia will share the fate of Montenegro*, I beseech the Serb people to be guided by commonsense, lest Serbia should become as Spain, which has not yet recovered from the consequences of the civil war. Time presses; tomorrow may be too late."

In conclusion M. Neditz appealed to the disturbers of peace to leave their hiding-places in the woods and throw away their arms and bombs. Those who returned home before 17th September would be granted an amnesty.

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