

extent in the Banate too, even the lower classes have been denationalised. In 58 parishes of Bessarabia there is not one single German teacher to be found. — 4. More than 500 German officials have lost their posts, owing to the results of language tests. — 5. The new Administration Bill threatens the use of German in political life. — 6. The year 1935 witnessed the completion of the denationalisation of German towns. — 7. The new Trade Bill will have a detrimental effect on the future of German trade. The economic life and the very existence of the Germans is threatened by the "numerus Wallachicus".

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HUNGARIAN PLAY BANNED

The Hungarian musical comedy, "The Umbrella King", which scored such a great success in Vienna and Budapest, has been banned in Transylvania by the Chief-Inspector of Theatres. The reason given was that some of the scenes contained insulting references to the Kings of France. M. Emile Isacu, Chief-Inspector of Theatres, also rebuked the theatre managers for having forgotten the important fact that Rumania was an ally of France. Here let it suffice to say that neither writers nor the authors of musical comedy librettos have the right to sit in judgment upon Louis Philip, the umbrella king. That task devolves upon history, and it was the French people themselves who in the Revolution of February 1848 deprived him of his throne. ("Erdélyi Hirlap", Jan. 9)

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YUGOSLAVIA

PRESENT CONDITION OF THE VOIVODINA

An article by Dr. Radivoj Simonovitch, a physician in the city of Zombor and one of the most enthusiastic supporters of the Pan-Slav idea in the Voivodina before the War, has been published in the "Voivodianin", a paper issued by the Opposition parties. This article was suggested by the Ban's recent order to change the name of the city of Zombor to „Brankovičevo". The author describes the position of the Voivodina and of Zombor under the Hungarian régime. He informs the reader of the autonomous constitution of the Serb Church in pre-War Hungary,

which entitled the Serbs to make their own arrangements at Sremski Kralovac concerning religious and educational affairs and to dispose freely of their enormous church funds. For what purpose have these enormous funds now been appropriated? — he asks. Who is in charge of the funds in the 16 Pravoslav monasteries of the "liberated" territory? As far back as 120 years ago the city of Zombor had a training college for teachers where the most reliable Serb patriots and teachers were trained not only for the Voivodina but also for the whole of the Serb nation. The citizens of Zombor were once wealthy, brave, and proud, now they are poor and miserable. The Hungarians granted them a huge amount of landed property for military services, and as a royal free city Zombor was exempted from the payment of feudal fees and taxes. Now the citizens of Zombor, and the population of the Voivodina in general, have to pay three times as much in taxes as the Croatians, and twice as much as the Slovenes, so that Zombor is now a miserable big village. The Hungarians allowed the citizens of Zombor to arrange processions at the time of the elections and vote for any party they chose, either Government or Opposition, and sing their own national songs and play their own national music on these occasions. Now they have to vote for the Government candidate, whosoever he may be, and they proceed to the polling boxes in silence and with a feeling of humiliation in their hearts. In former days they often had Serb prefects and sub-prefects; now the county office and the revenue office have both been removed from Zombor to another place; even the provincial bank has been removed from there, although it had a huge building in Zombor, while in the place to which it has been removed a new building had to be erected at a cost of more than 120 million dinars. Every part of the country has its own people in the leading county positions, yet the Voivodina has not received any benefit from the Government so far, not even so much as to have one of its own men appointed to the office of Ban. This is the reason why the citizens of Zombor do not wish to become the citizens of "Brankovičevo"!

All the above statements made by the author with reference to the city of Zombor may be applied to the other towns and villages of the Voivodina, with the exception, perhaps, of Novisad (Ujvidék), capital of the Danube Banate. If the Serbs of the Voivodina are compelled to go so far in their complaints, we may well form an opinion of the state of the Hungarian, German, and Bunievatz minorities in the occupied territories.

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POLITICAL ECONOMY

THE ECONOMIC LITTLE ENTENTE IN PRACTICE

The new system of payment recently introduced in Rumania has led to a considerable decrease in Czecho-Slovak exports to Rumania. It is reported from Bucharest that the Rumanian Government is not disposed to allow the importation of goods over the value of 160 million Crowns this year, as against 220 millions last year. Within these limits the orders of the State will amount to 100 million Crowns, while the Rumanian oil industry will order tubes for 30

million Crowns, so that the other importers will have to be satisfied with the remaining 40 million Crowns.

This low contingent is, of course, not enough to satisfy the demands of the Rumanian market, yet the Government is not willing to extend the line of 40 millions; accordingly — as we are informed from Bucharest — the importers have been warned to relinquish the hope that the line will be extended and therefore to try to satisfy their demands from other markets than Czecho-Slovakia.

The final blow to Czecho-Slovak exports to Rumania has been dealt by the fact that the Rumanian

Government has declared the Czech Crown to be one of the so-called "strong currencies", while the Hungarian pengő and the Austrian schilling have been classified as "weak currencies". The result of this is that there is a great demand for the weak currencies, which may now be had on the market without any restrictions; consequently, the exports of countries with "weak currencies" have considerably increased at the expense of the States possessing a "strong currency". The new system practically precludes the possibility of Czecho-Slovak exports to Rumania, while on the other hand it furthers the exports of Hungary, Austria, Germany, Italy, and Poland to that country.

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CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

MISERY OF SUDETA GERMANS

Czecho-Slovakia is generally known abroad as a State resting on a sound economic basis, for it inherited the larger half of the manufacturing industry of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Very few people know, however, the great problems which the manufacturing industry of Czecho-Slovakia has to face, partly because of the loss of the best part of the inland market which it once had in Austria-Hungary, and partly in consequence of the blunders made by the protectionist agrarian policy of the Government. Furthermore, very few people know that the unemployment in the rural districts and the poverty of the working classes is becoming worse and worse day after day. It is, however, a fact that the misery of the mining and industrial districts in the districts severed from Hungary, viz. Slovakia and Ruthenia, as well as in Bohemia, Silesia, and Moravia, is at present on a scale inconceivable before the war. Both the Czecho-Slovak and the foreign press have repeatedly referred to the misery of the Sudeta German territory, which is the most important industrial and mining area of the country. Thus, we believe, it will be useful to give a brief account of the situation as shown in official reports.

In a report issued by the Czecho-Slovak Minister of Health, Dr. Louis Czech, at the end of November, the consequences of poverty of the Sudeta German territory are described in the most striking manner. According to the report of the Ministry of Health, the number of children suffering from an illness of the lymphatic glands in Brünn, in the first quarter of 1935, was 36, that of children suffering from tuberculosis 42, the number of children suffering from rickets having increased by 200% as compared with the same period of the previous year. In Schüttenhofen the percentage of cases of rickets (in 1935) had increased by 100%, in Teplitz-Schönau by 40%, and in Asch by 39%, mainly in consequence of undernourishment.

The Medical Officer in the district of Teschen reported that the average weight of 80% of the children being nursed in the Children's Home was less than normal, and that 50% suffered from osseous abnormalities caused by rickets.

An equally tragic description of the situation may be found in a report drafted by a commission com-

posed of Czech intellectuals who had made a tour in North Bohemia, visiting the towns of Friedland, Reichenberg, and Gablonz; its members included Carl Capek, the well-known Czech writer, and Maria Pujmanova, a Czech authoress. The commission visited a number of industrial establishments, county offices, and labourers' home and spoke to people belonging to various social classes, primarily to officials, teachers, and physicians. The Commission declared that conditions in the rural districts are absolutely desperate. Madame Pujmanova gives the following account of her journey in the periodical called "Přítomost": „The people are underfed and are possessed of mob hysteria. Everywhere we may see starved and dreaming faces. The women start crying when they talk. At a meeting I saw a woman suddenly jump up, clap her hands and cry for help, because, she said, every member of her family had gone mad. It will be argued, of course, that the situation in North Bohemia is no worse than that in Slovakia, Ruthenia, etc. I am far from saying that misery is limited exclusively to North Bohemia, but I am convinced that it is most terrible there. Unemployment in that part of the country is no more an epidemic, but a natural state, and this is very sadthink." The public health officer of Weisskirchen reported that people of 30 suffer from cancer, that the epidemics of diphtheria and scarlatina never cease, and that even old people die of those illnesses. The unemployed have no health insurance, so that they receive no medical treatment either.

M. David, a Legionary Member of the Czech Parliament, and Senator Šoltz described their experiences in 35 villages of the District of Jung-Bunzlau, in the Czech periodical "Národní Osvobození". The economic conditions there, they say, are simply indescribable. In many textile factories labourers are paid only 5 Czech crowns a day, and families of three occupied in coral threading very often do not earn more than 3 Crowns a day. For these people bread is something exceptional, their diet consisting of black coffee and potatoes.

In an article written by him, in the "Česke Slovo", the organ of the Czech National Socialist Party (to which President Beneš belonged until quite recently), M. Heida, a Czech journalist informs us that no Czecho-Slovak Minister of Commerce has paid an official visit to the German industrial areas in Bohemia; the present "anti-Prague" policy of the Sudeta Germans is, in his opinion, a "hunger front". M. Heida then proceeds to describe the misery of this area and calls upon his compatriots to make a decisive move towards a peace with the Germans. He protests that there have been no public works initiated in the German areas; in a few exceptional cases the work was given out to Czech firms, who had labourers brought from the Czech parts of Bohemia instead of employing the out-of-work masses of the depressed areas.

The sad picture presented to the reader by the above reports of the wealthiest districts of pre-War Austria-Hungary, is but a specimen to illustrate the present economic condition of Czecho-Slovakia. The reports and facts are taken from sources whose reliability is unquestionable.

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UNEMPLOYMENT ON THE INCREASE

The Ministry of Public Welfare reports that the number of unemployed rose from 678.870 in November to 797.190 at the end of December — an increase of 118.320, or 17.4%. This decline in the condition of the labour market dangerously resembles the course of events in 1932 when the economic crisis was at its height and the number of unemployed rose in December by 137.000, or 22.5%. In 1933 the increase was 80.000, or 16%, and in 1934, 83.000, or 11%.

The situation is most desperate in Slovakia (formerly part of Hungary) where at the end of November 84.284 persons were on the lists of unemployed. This number rose in December by 30.499 to 114.723. This signifies an increase in unemployment of 36% in Slovakia. In other words, compared with the percentual increase of unemployment in the whole Republic, that of Slovakia is more than double. These official statistics show better than anything else could that while most of the countries of Europe are slowly beginning to recover from the depression, Czecho-Slovakia's economic situation is as bad as it was in the darkest days of the economic crisis. If there is a country in the Danube Valley whose vital interests demand a change in the present situation, that country is certainly Czecho-Slovakia.

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HUNGARY

THE STATE ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS FOR NOVEMBER SHOW SURPLUS OF 24 MILLION PENGŐ

According to the Ministry of Finance's monthly report on Hungary's finances, in November 1935 the expenditure of the administration was 57.1 million pengő; the revenue (not including the yield from loans) were 81.1 millions. In other words, the State Administration revenue exceeded expenditure by 24 millions. In November the sum of 1.6 million pengő out of the money borrowed from foreign credit funds for necessary investments was devoted to State Administration purposes.

The total expenditure of the State undertakings amounted in November to 33 million pengő. Receipts were 31.6 millions — an excess of expenditure of 1.4 million for all the State undertakings. Out of the money borrowed from the foreign credit funds to cover investments the sum of 0.2 million pengő was utilised in November by the State undertakings.

Two million pengő were paid into the National Bank of Hungary for the League of Nations loan service. This amount was not transferred, and subsequently the sum of 1.7 million pengő was taken up against treasury notes.

In November the State Administration advanced sums of 500.000 pengő to the State Railways and of 900.000 to the State Iron, Steel, and Machinery Works, while 1 million pengő were appropriated from the surplus of the Postal, Telegraph and Telephone receipts for the purposes of the State Administration.

According to the tables of figures contained in the report, the turn-over, compared with the November of last year, shows a general improvement, especially in the cases of the Post Office and the State Railways.

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INCREASE OF HUNGARIAN TEXTILE EXPORTS

The exports of the Hungarian textile and ready made clothes industries from January to September, 1935, were of the value of 16 million Pengő. Thus *the value of the exports of the first nine months of the year 1935 exceeded that of the total exports of 1934 (11.4 Pengő) by 41%*. The increase in the quantity of exports is even more remarkable. In 1934 the exports of the textile and ready made clothes industries amounted to 34.759 quintals and 378.141 pieces; from January to September 1935 this quantity increased to 69.551 quintals (+100%), and 398.575 pieces (+5%).

Our most important market was Great Britain: 20% of the total textile exports during the first nine months of the year 1935 went to that country. Then comes Germany, representing 12%, the U. S. A. 11%, Yugoslavia and Rumania 7%. The most interesting point about our textile export to Great Britain is that it consisted to a considerable degree (25%) of the products of the ready made clothes industry. Although this includes also dresses decorated with popular embroidery, yet it is interesting to see that the British market is becoming more and more interested in the special Budapest style of our ready made clothes (suits and dresses).

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THE "FUTURA" AS PILLAR OF MINIMUM WHEAT-PRICE SYSTEM

(X) The Hungarian Government has designated the *minimum wheat-price system* as the marketing basis of the 1935 wheat crop. This system will fix the lowest price for wheat throughout the whole country, and thus provide farmers with a sound basis of calculation, no matter in what period of the economic year they wish to sell. The minimum wheat-price system would, of course, prove a dead letter did the Hungarian agriculturists not have at their disposal an organization able to supply guarantees satisfactory in every respect that the farmers may with all certainty count on finding purchasers ready to buy their wheat anywhere and at any time at the minimum price at least. This organization is the "Futura", the *Hungarian Co-operative Societies' Trading Co.* which for over fifteen years, by means of a network of trading centres, has been buying wheat at every railway and shipping station in the country (about 3.300) and *paying at least the minimum price in cash* on receipt of the waybills or bills of lading.

Besides wheat the "Futura" buys and sells other arents, as well as fodder for cattle (rye, barley and maize), pulse and seed. In 1935, for instance, the importance of maize rendered necessary on account of the shortage in that commodity, was controlled and indeed the greater part of it actually effected, by the "Futura", to the complete satisfaction of the farmers.

Thanks to the confidence placed in it by the Hungarian Government and the sheep-farmers the "Futura" was able to play a beneficial part in controlling the marketing of the wool shorn in 1935; for it managed to secure contracts from the carding and weaving industries for the purchase of about 6 million kilogrammes of wool at a fixed price. The institution of a wool auction market under the management of the "Futura" has developed considerably, and was successful in negotiating the sale of about 1.2 million kilogrammes of wool — the largest quantity ever put up for auction in Hungary — at price 10% in excess of the ordinary market price.

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YUGOSLAVIA

BANKS HAVE APPLIED FOR PROTECTION

According to a report of the Banking Association in Zagreb, 256 banks have, so far, asked for the application of the Bank Protection Act. 36 applications have not yet been dealt with in the Ministry of Commerce. 186 banks have applied for a moratorium on their former deposits, 4 banks have been granted a moratorium, and their re-construction scheme has also been accepted. 6 banks have been allowed to amalgamate, and 24 other banks permitted to liquidate without any legal proceedings. The amount of deposits held by the 256 banks (now under the Bank Protection Act) is 4450 million dinars, — 48.5% of the total amount of deposits in all the banks of Yugoslavia.

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PRESENT STATE OF TOWNS OF THE VOIVODINA

The following two examples will sufficiently illustrate the sad fate of the towns of the Voivodina, which were most prosperous before they were taken from Hungary.

According to a report in the Bunievatz paper "Neven", published at Subotica (formerly called Szabadka), the population (numbering about 103,000) is alarmed to see the gradual decrease of the importance of this frontier town. Politically Subotica does not count. From an economic point of view Subotica is a town of the past, and nothing has been done in the way of its cultural improvement. In a word: Subotica is dangerously ill, it does not lead the life of a town any more, it has sunk — so to speak — into a state of lethargy. *It is enough to say that one fourth of its population (more than 25,000 people) are unemployed and are, therefore, living in a most deplorable condition.*

Another town, Stara-Kaniža (Ókanizsa, Pavlograd, with a population 94% Hungarian) is in an equally bad state. M. Agbaba Mihajlo, the newly appointed president of the town council, made a statement in December, in which he said: *"this town is absolutely dead, its debts are over 8 million dinars, its financial resources are exhausted, it owes its officials and retired employees half a million dinars; hence it will have to practise the greatest economy to retain its former position".*

To these statements we would simply add that the situation is the same in all the other towns and villages of the Voivodina.

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S P O R T S

FOOTBALL

For the winter season the majority of the Hungarian teams accepted engagements for matches abroad, the results of which were strikingly good. Of the 41 matches played the Hungarian teams lost only 7 — a really excellent performance.

ICE HOCKEY

Now that we are on the eve of the Olympiad, the Hungarian ice hockey players are busily training for the great event. Matches, one more interesting than the other, follow in quick succession. One of the most important was that played by the Volants Français team from Paris against the Hungarian Skating Association team. The splendid French team was beaten on the first day by 5 goals to 3, but in the return match the French won by 7 goals to 2.

FENCING

At the end of last year the Austrian Sword Championships were decided in Vienna. The Hungarian fencers took part in great numbers and again gave proof of their overwhelming superiority. The first 6 places were won by Hungarian competitors, while the Austrians had to content themselves with the last three.

SWIMMING

On the list of the great events for next year is

the six team European water-polo meeting. The previous year's meeting was arranged for the Klebelsberg Cup, which the Hungarian team won outright. To replace this Cup the Hungarian Swimming Association has presented a Horthy Cup in honour of its President; and the six representative European teams which do best at the Berlin Olympiad will compete for it. It is very probable that the first four will be the Hungarian, German, Belgian, and French teams, but there is every prospect of a great struggle for the fifth and sixth places. The British, Yugoslav, Czechoslovak, Austrian, and Spanish teams will start with even chances.

SPORT TRUCE IN CENTRAL EUROPE

How important the re-establishment of peace in the field of sports would be to the States of the Little Entente, is proved by a statement made by several leading men in Yugoslav sporting circles to the Belgrade correspondent of a Hungarian sporting paper.

"Until we can play again with the Hungarian teams" — they said — "the financial position of the Belgrade and Zagreb teams is not likely to improve."

The fact is that the Prague and Vienna teams do not draw such great crowds in Belgrade now as they used to. The conclusion of a truce in the world of football does not depend on Hungary; for it is the Yugoslavs who have kept the Hungarian teams away, and who have hitherto prevented intercourse in sports.

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