

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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