

owing to the breakdown of Parliamentary Government. Had he not been assassinated he would probably have endeavoured as quickly as possible to re-establish constitutional government. The Regent appears to be using his influence in the same direction. People here do not realize that in that country a section of members of Parliament refuse to attend Parliament, that disturbances in Parliament have been very violent, with an occasional shot fired. I mention this to show how difficult it is to establish Parliamentary Government.

"Another impression I brought away is that we should think out very clearly our commitments. We in England in particular have talked a great deal about collective action and collective security, and, as recent events have shown, we have done this without having considered the implications and possible commitments.

"Under collective action we may, in fact, allow ourselves to be used as partners of a semi-military alliance to preserve the *status quo*, and not only so, but an alliance in which a certain number of the partners were unprepared to take adequate military steps to meet obligations. As a result, the enforcement of obligations may depend mainly upon a minority of the Powers.

"The British public must make up its mind whether to have limited commitments involving, if necessary, military action, or unlimited commitments, also involving military action.

"Many are beginning to think that as people face realities they will be reluctant to bind themselves to unlimited commitments involving participation in war on their part, particularly in order to maintain a *status quo* which in some cases is difficult to justify.

"If this is so, then we must cease using in the loose manner that we have been doing the phrases 'collective action' and 'collective security', and we must let other countries know exactly where we stand and how far we are prepared to go.

"Though the British public is probably unwilling to bind itself blindly to war in connection with the South-East of Europe, it is ready to give an undertaking to take immediate action if countries like Belgium or France are invaded.

"When the war ended there was much use of the phrase 'self determination', and small nationalities were encouraged to start separate States. As a result there has been a development of economic nationalism and an increasing stoppage of that interchange of goods on which Europe has been

built up, and on which a rising standard of living depends. Until these barriers are reduced it is difficult to see how you can get prosperity, confidence, or peace.

"The longer one waits the more difficult it becomes to put things right because new vested interests are constantly being set up in the different countries. What has happened in Ireland bears this out."

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Major Henry Adam Procter, British M. P., spent Easter in Budapest. He was present on Easter Sunday at the celebrations held before the National Colours, and also delivered a stirring address to the thousands of people gathered there. In the course of his speech Major Procter said that what he had seen and heard in Hungary had only strengthened his firm conviction that Hungary had been very unjustly treated. It was his firm belief that what selfish and ignorant politicians had so arbitrarily created, the forces of justice would change. In conclusion he said that it would not be long before a revision of the Treaty of Trianon took place. The crowds greeted Major Procter's announcement with a storm of applause.

In the afternoon Major Procter had tea with the Archduke Joseph Francis. On Easter Monday he visited Sátorajuhely, where he saw for himself that the little river Ronyva could never be considered seriously as a natural frontier. At the Paris Peace Conference it was described as a navigable stream and the frontier was drawn accordingly. From Sátorajuhely he returned to Budapest via Sárospatak, where he was welcomed by M. Alex Novak, Rector, on behalf of the ancient Reformed Church College and by M. Julius Szabó, Headmaster, on behalf of the English boarding-school founded in that town by Count Kunó Klebelsberg. In replying to them, Major Procter declared that were he a Hungarian he would find it as impossible to acquiesce in what had happened as the Hungarians themselves. He spoke of an interesting conversation he had recently had with Lloyd George, the British Prime Minister of the Peace Conference days, who had told him that the way the Trianon frontier had been drawn did not correspond with the intentions of the then responsible factors, indeed he had been entirely misled when the new frontier was being drawn. Major Procter went on to assure the Hungarians that the two hundred members of the British House of Commons who had united to see that justice was done in this part of Europe, would never rest until their object had been accomplished.

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## HOW MINORITIES LIVE

### CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

#### ILLUMINATING DETAILS FROM THE NEW CZECHO-SLOVAK DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC BILL

In our last issue we referred briefly to the new Defence of the Republic Bill introduced by the Czecho-Slovak Government. Since then the Bill has passed the Senate; and in a few days it will be signed by the President of the Republic. Below will

be found a few excerpts from Chapter III. of the new Bill ("Undertakings of Importance in connection with the defence of the republic"), which show what far-reaching powers are being conferred on the Czecho-Slovak Government by the legislature to enable it to enforce the most severe measures against "unreliable" elements *even in times of peace*.

In terms of § 18 an Order in Council may declare as important in connection with the defence of the republic a certain category of undertakings in general, the same right being exercised in respect of individual undertakings by the National Defence Ministry.

§ 19 contains the following provision: — "The authorities responsible for granting licences permitting the carrying on of undertakings of importance from the point of view of the State shall be required to ascertain also whether the persons to whom the licence is to be given are suitable or reliable from the point of view of the State? and no such licences may be given to persons whom the competent hundred (police) office has qualified as unreliable".

"Should the competent hundred (police) office in consequence of any event ascertain that the owner of any undertaking is unreliable from the point of view of the safety of the State, it shall take a decision to that effect which shall be delivered to the owner of the undertaking in question."

"Against the decision of the competent authority referred to in paragraph 2 above an appeal may be filed with the council formed in connection with the national (provincial) office to which that authority is subordinated. The decision of this council is final and definitive; the council consists of a chairman appointed by the Ministry of the Interior and of two members, one of whom shall be appointed by the Minister of National Defence, the other to be appointed by the Minister of Industry and Commerce, — or where the undertaking in question is subject to the control of another department, by the Minister who is head of that department. If so required, more than one council may be appointed to function in connection with the several provincial offices. An Order in Council shall be issued for the purpose of fixing the rules relating to the organisation of the councils, to their manner of representation before third parties in particular, to the adjustment of the matters belonging to their jurisdiction and to the manner of carrying their decisions into effect.

Where the legal owner of any undertaking of importance from the point of view of the Defence of the Republic who has been described officially as unreliable fails to comply with the demand of the authority designated in the Order in Council that he shall within a period of time fixed by the said authority put a suitable person at the head of his undertaking, —

a) the concession or other licence enabling such owner to carry on the said undertaking may on the proposal of the National Defence Ministry be taken away from him — or

b) for the period during which such a procedure is necessary the authority designated in the Order in Council may or rather shall at the expense of the owner ordain the undertaking in question to be administered under official control.

The authorities are not required to motivate the decisions describing the owners of undertakings important for the defence of the Republic as politically unreliable.

Definitive findings taken under the provisions contained in paragraphs 2. and 3. shall be binding on those courts of law, authorities and organs cal-

led upon to decide relating to claims filed by the persons to whom such findings relate.

When the State is on the defensive or when the events referred to in the first sentence of paragraph 1. of § 139 ensue, the decisions of the competent hundred (police) offices shall be final as provided in paragraph 2."

(The "events referred to in the first sentence of paragraph 1. of § 139" are as follows: — "Should the State be on the defensive" [that state ensuing, according to § 57, in the event of the mobilisation of the army or of the proclamation of a state of war or after a declaration of war], "and at that period any events ensue either within the State or on its frontiers which seriously menace the integrity of the country, its democratic republican form, the Constitution, or public peace and order...")

According to § 20 the boards of directors, inspectors and auditors of undertaking of importance from the point of view of the defence of the Republic must also be persons who are politically reliable. Should any of the persons referred to above have been officially designated as unreliable and the owner of the undertaking in question nevertheless fail to comply with the demand of the competent authority to replace the said person or persons within a fixed period of time by appointing a suitable person or suitable persons in his (their) stead, the authority may appoint another person (other persons) to sit on the board of directors, management or committee of supervision respectively of the undertaking in question, or 2. may — or rather shall — on the proposal of the National Defence Ministry deprive the undertaking in question of its concession or of any other licence authorising it to carry on its business, — or 3. may — or rather shall — for such period as may prove necessary at the expense of its owner place the administration of the undertaking in question under control.

Under § 21 undertakings of importance from the point of view of national defence may not employ persons who are politically unreliable in any capacity whatever. As soon as he is informed by the competent authority that the decision qualifying any employee as politically unreliable has become law, the owner of any such undertaking is required to at once dismiss from his employ the person in question and also to provide that the operations of the undertaking shall not in consequence be in any way interrupted. Should the said owner fail to comply with his duties in this respect, an Order in Council may — or rather shall — place the said undertaking under official control.

§§ 20—21 contain provisions relative to the taking of decisions ascertaining the fact of unreliability and to appeals against such decision analogous to those contained in § 19.

No "foreigners" may without the previous approval of the military administration be employed in undertakings of importance from the point of view of

national defence. ("foreigners" is explained by point c. of § 194 to mean all persons who are unable to certify that they are Czecho-Slovak nationals — that including also the masses of "persons of undefined nationality"). Those foreigners whose employment is not approved of in advance by the military administration or in whose cases the military authorities withdraw the approval originally given, must be dismissed by their employers immediately upon the authorities making a demand to that effect. Should the owner of any such undertaking fail to comply with this demand, the undertaking may — or rather shall — be placed under official control. (§22).

Nor may any foreigners be employed as *directors, managers or auditors* of undertakings of importance from the point of view of national defence, except with the express previous approval of the military administration. Should any such foreigner have been elected or appointed as such without the previous approval of the military administration — or should the military administration withdraw such approval, — and the owner of the undertaking in question fail to have another person elected or appointed respectively in the place of such foreigner, the competent authority a) may — or rather shall — put another person in his place and may — or rather shall — withdraw the concession or other licence enabling the undertaking to carry on its business, or b) may — or rather shall — place the undertaking under official control.

According to §§ 22—23 there is no legal appeal against these decisions.

From the data given above it is strikingly evident that the new Czecho-Slovak Bill paves the way to the enforcement against "unreliable" elements of draconic regulations both materially and formally unusual in a constitutional State; that being done (in the words of the Preamble to the Bill) "to ensure against every eventuality the mobility of production". There is no disputing the right of every State to employ every means within its power to defend its existence in the event of war; but if Czecho-Slovakia desires to put the measures referred to above into force in times of peace too — and if the "unreliable" elements are the cause of such serious anxiety to that country —, we cannot help echoing the words of Shakespeare — "something is rotten in the state of Denmark".

## HUNGARIAN POLITICIANS PERSECUTED

The Supreme Court of Justice in Kassa has sentenced Deputy Joseph Szent-Ivány, one of the leaders of the Hungarian minority in Czecho-Slovakia, to three months' gaol for an article in the Budapest daily, the "Pester Lloyd", in which he disputed views expressed by Mme Anna Kéthly, Member of the Hungarian Parliament (Social Democrat). Szent-Ivány's defence was that the German translation of his article written in Hungarian was not exact, and that when he read it he complained about it to the editor of the

"Pester Lloyd". But the Court pronounced what for the offence was a very severe sentence, without permitting Szent-Ivány to prove his statement.

The police magistrate in Kassa has sentenced M. Ladislav Tost, Vice-Burgomaster of the town, who is a Hungarian by race, to seven days' imprisonment and a fine of 2.000 Czech crowns for "a breach of public order". His offence was that at the general assembly of the municipality on February 27th he had protested with the words "No, no, never Breptal!" against a Czech architect of that name being appointed supervisor of the building of the elementary school in the northern ward, the town having its own regular architectural expert. The sentence caused great consternation among the inhabitants, particularly because Burgomaster Maxon himself, who had been chairman of the meeting, gave evidence at the trial that he had taken M. Tost's remark as a jest, and had therefore not seen it necessary to rebuke him for it.

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## DATA TYPICALLY ILLUSTRATIVE OF HUNGARIAN EDUCATION IN SLOVAKIA

M. Géza Szüllő, President of the Parliamentary Club of the Hungarian Deputies and Senators, in his last question to the Minister of Public Education said that although the mother-tongue of at least 60% of the pupils attending the state school in Nagyborsa was Hungarian, and although the children could not speak any other language, no teaching was done in Hungarian. In fact the headmaster, M. Jan Píáček, has strictly forbidden the scholars to speak Hungarian. M. Píáček had slapped one pupil for speaking in that language with his class-fellows. He had also forbidden the children to address each other in Hungarian in the streets. The other teacher of the school was a Moravian who could not speak a word of Hungarian. The Hungarian children had hitherto received religious instruction in their mother-tongue from the Rev. Mr. Stefanovič, the parish priest of Egyházfa, but M. Píáček now insisted on its being imparted in "Czecho-Slovak". The priest protested and asked for a meeting of the parents to be convened for the purpose of deciding the language in which they wished their children to receive religious instruction. The headmaster prevented the meeting. Thanks to his intervention the children were also forbidden to pray in Hungarian in church. M. Píáček had always discriminated in favour of his Slovak pupils. When, for instance, Christmas gifts of clothes, boots and underclothing were being distributed, only Slovak children got any, although there were many among the Hungarians more in need of aid.

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## SLOVAKS COMPLETELY OUSTED BY CZECHS FROM CIVIL SERVICE

Of the 553 officials employed in the Railway Head Office in Pozsony (Bratislava) only 81 (14.6%) are Slovak nationals. Only 12 (14.2%) of the 85 officials holding university degrees, 1 (20%) of the five head councillors, 6 (16.6%) of the 36 councillors and 3 (8.8%) of the 34 engineers are Slovaks. There is not one Slovak among the referendaries on matters concerning the *personnel*. ("Slovak May 1.). These fig-

ures prove how the Czechs who have settled in Slovakia since 1918 refuse to give the Slovaks a chance of getting their share of work in the railway service. In other branches of public service the situation of the Slovaks is even worse.

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## THE SITUATION IN RUTHENIA

M. Charles Hokky, a Hungarian Senator for Ruthenia, in his recent speech on the Budget in the Prague Senate made the following statements illustrative of social conditions in that Ruthenia which for sixteen years has been urging its claim to the autonomy guaranteed in the Treaty of Saint Germain.

The Provincial Office in Ungvár demands the sums required for the material expenses of the state schools from the Ruthenian towns and villages, although this practice has been condemned as illegal by the Supreme Court of Administration in Prague. This burden makes it impossible for the villages to meet the most elementary requirements of hygiene, such as the laying of water pipes and the construction of sewers. Epidemics literally rage, and typhus, scarlet fever and other contagious diseases take a terrible toll of victims among adults as well as children. Because of the lack of running water, the water supply in Beregszász, Nagyszöllös and many other places is inadequate, and the wells are so foul that they are simply hot-beds of contagious diseases. The villages, towns, and even the Province itself, are so heavily in debt that they are bound hand and foot. The villages have no money to pay the salaries of their officials, still less to clear themselves of debt. There was a time when in many a village the inhabitants were exempt from the burden of taxation because the village itself paid their taxes for them. This is all changed now. Today the population groans under the burdens heaped on its shoulders and the State refuses to assist. In vain did M. Hokky apply to Government to declare the district of Nagyszöllös a "distressed" zone. In 1933 it was laid waste by floods, in 1934 by terrible hailstorms and in 1935 by drought, so that every reason was forthcoming to declare it a "distressed" zone. But no, the petition was refused. Farmers, craftsmen and shopkeepers are insolvent to an incredible extent. The unemployed received practically no aid the whole winter through. While hundreds of millions (Czech crowns) were paid out to the working classes in the historical provinces, the starving in the Hungarian districts were grudged a few thousands.

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## SUDETA GERMAN PARTY'S PETITION TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

The Sudeta German Party (Henlein Party) has submitted to the League of Nations a petition signed by all its members — deputies and senators. It is a protest against the decree issued by the Czecho-Slovak War Ministry in re. military supplies, which ordains that enterprises in the hands of German nationals may not supply the army unless they employ the requisite number of "Czecho-Slovak" national officials and workmen. The petition asks for a League of Nations' commissioner to investigate the matter on the spot and see for himself the results of the decree.

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## RUMANIA

### SAXON OPINION OF NEW ANTI-MINORITY LAWS

Now that this last Parliamentary session is over we publish below a few statements made by Saxons, in order to show that the laws recently passed seriously affect not only the Hungarians in Transylvania, but also the Saxons.

An important newspaper, the "Kronstädter Zeitung" (9th April 1936, Vol. C.) says in its leader: — "The German people may be said to draw a breath of relief when Parliament rises, for while the recess lasts, at least no new laws can be passed to undermine the existence of the German race. The situation of the Germans is bad when Parliament is in session; it is bad even when there is no Parliament; but it is worst of all when, as in the present instance, laws, one more important than the other, are introduced and passed before there is time even to go through them properly."

The "Siebenbürgisch Deutsches Tageblatt" of 8th April 1936 (Vol. LXIII) says: — "The Parliamentary session just over has also been responsible for heavy losses to the Germans, for great dangers and bitter misunderstandings. Both the new Administration Act and the Industry Act are prejudicial to the racial and economic existence of the German people. State grants have again been withheld from the schools, although that constitutes a violation of the minority treaties. Our volunteer fire-brigades have been disbanded."

In his speech on the Budget Dr. Hans Otto Roth, leader of the German parliamentary group, pointed out that German denominational schools did not receive any grants, while 20,578,000 lei had been set apart this year for the Rumanian minority schools in Greece, Bulgaria, and Albania, although the number of Rumanian nationals in those countries was considerably smaller than that of the Germans in Rumania. Dr. Roth was of opinion that the State was doing its level best to ruin the Germans economically first, so that it might be able the easier to curb them politically afterwards. ("Kronstädter Zeitung" 4th April 1936, No. 79 and "Siebenbürgisch Deutsches Tageblatt" 5th April 1936 No. 18891.)

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### COURT MARTIAL FOR HISTORICAL ESSAYS

Dr. Martin Roska, one of the directors of the Archaeological Institute of the Rumanian University of Sciences, an archaeologist well-known even outside the frontiers of Transylvania, wrote three essays on "Prehistoric Transylvania", "Transylvania and the period of the Migration of the Peoples" and "The original settlement and Transylvania" for a work entitled "Historical Transylvania" published in Budapest by the Society of Transylvanians. For these three essays court martial proceedings were instituted against Dr. Roska, and his flat was ransacked. In these new essays Dr. Roska had adhered to the theory expounded in earlier essays of his which appeared in 1913, 1914, and 1927, viz. that the Hungarians made their appearance in Transylvania in 896 A. D. and not after the lapse of the first millenium after the birth of Christ; and he did not use the Rumanian names that were given to places in Transylvania first

after 1919. Dr. Roska's three archaeological essays are entirely unbiassed. They are scientific works and to court martial the author is a flagrant insult to the principle freedom of thought.

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## HUNGARIAN MEMORIAL TABLETS REMOVED

After the Szatmár memorial tablet to Alexander Petöfi had been removed by order of the Minister for the Interior, four others of Hungarian historical interest were removed from the walls of buildings in Nagyvárad (Oradea Mare). Two of them marked the birth-places of famous Hungarians, the great actor Edward Szigligeti (1814—1878) and Desiderius Szilágyi (1840—1901) an eminent authority on Hungarian law who was also Minister of Justice; a third showed the house in which General Alexander Nagy who died a martyr's death in 1849 passed his youth, and the fourth, set in the church of St. Ladislas, commemorated the end of Turkish rule in Hungary. ("Keleti Ujság", May 7.) These memorial tablets were no offence to Rumanian national feelings, but their removal has given rise to deep bitterness in the hearts of two million Hungarians.

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## ARBITRARY ATTEMPTS TO RUMANIANIZE FAMILY NAMES

The Hungarian Party in the County of Arad on the strength of the new Names Act has applied for protection against the endeavours of the authorities to rumanianize family names. These endeavours begin to assume increasingly extensive proportions. ("Keleti Ujság", May 2.).

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## THE LANGUAGE TESTS

In four counties of Transylvania 106 minority midwives have been dismissed because of their failure to pass the language tests. ("Népujság", April 20.) In Arad 17 minority football referees were ploughed in that examination, and were consequently struck off the list of persons authorized to act as referees at football matches. ("Brassói Lapok", April 20.)

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## DUTIES ON HUNGARIAN BOOKS

An international treaty provides that books shall be duty-free. This treaty was signed by Rumania too. And yet the Rumanian Minister of Commerce and the Customs Department have imposed a duty on all bound books from foreign countries. It is called a "luxury duty" and this duty of 32 lei per kilogramme is on the bindings which, no matter how poor they may be, are classified among the articles called "luxuries". Seeing that French books are usually in paper covers, this measure applies primarily to Hungarian books, now that it has become the fashion in Budapest to publish most books in a bound form.

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## LATEST MEASURES AGAINST RELIGIOUS MINORITIES

All the clergy belonging to the religious minorities in Fogaras have been summoned to police headquarters, where the Head of the Police force has read to them a decree *forbidding assemblies or religious meetings of any kind whatsoever except Divine Service in the churches*. ("Brassói Lapok", April 24, 1936, No. 95). The Reformed Church minister in Déva has been informed by the police that *no religious meetings may be held in the church in future without a special permit*. ("Keleti Ujság", May 1, 1936). Although under the minority treaties the principle of *equal treatment* for the majority and minority denominations should be in force, we see that the State grants to the minority denominations *have been reduced by 80%*, whereas the grants to the Rumanian clergy have suffered a reduction of only 8.25%. The grants accorded to clergymen in the same status are distributed thus: Greek Orientals 3200, Greek Catholics 3000, Evangelicals 2900, Calvinists 1800, and Unitarians 1200 lei a head. The purely Hungarian Calvinist denomination has suffered a cut of 13.000.000 and the Unitarians one of 2.400.000 lei. ("Keleti Ujság", April 16, 1936).

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## YUGOSLAVIA

### INTERESTING STATEMENTS AT GENERAL CONGRESS OF DOBROVOLIACI

The Yugoslav *dobrovoljaci* (war volunteers) in Belgrade on April 26th held a congress attended by about 5000 men. It was a jubilee meeting to commemorate the formation twenty years ago of the first detachment of war volunteers in Russia. At the congress mention was made amongst other things of the fact that in 1919 and for a few years after, at the time when the *dobrovoljaci* were getting free grants of land, most of the *dobrovoljaci* certificates were sold for money at a price ranging between 5000 and 10.000 dinars to men who had never been at the front. It is typical in connection with these certificates that 35.000 of them were issued, although previous official records show that at the end of the war the number of genuine war volunteers did not exceed 10.000. From what the congress speakers said, it may be gathered that the settlement of war volunteers in the new territories, especially in the Voivodina, is intended to raise a strong barrier against the attacks expected from the north (?), and also to insure if possible a majority of "national elements" in the minority districts. According to the speakers the settlement has been a success from a nationalist point of view in so far that it has raised the percentage of "Yugoslav" national elements to 45% of the total population in Bácska, Baranya and the Banate, that is to say in the Voivodina. But viewed from an economic standpoint the settlement has been less of a success, for the war volunteers lacking "adequate financial resources" (?) *are not able to work their fields properly, they have fallen into debt and are being compelled to sell the land and their other possessions for next to nothing to Hungarians and Germans*.

These statements call for certain corrections and comments. If this 45% result took seventeen and a half years to achieve and even then has been brought about only by the settlement of *dobrovoljaci* and *chetniks* (or *komitachis*), the departure of optants and refugees, the importation from Serbia and Montenegro of officials, employees and soldiers, and the influx of masses of immigrants, numbering over 100,000 — then we may take it as a fresh proof of the irrefutable fact that the Voivodina was attached to Serbia against the will of the majority of the inhabitants by a woefully misled Peace Conference.

As regards the allegation that the war volunteers are not doing well on the land they got for nothing, all that can be said is that their failure is not due to a want of "adequate financial resources", but to their inefficiency, lack of industry, and carelessness. The war volunteers, settled mainly on land belonging to the Hungarian villages, and the other Southern Slav settlers, not content with enjoying a maximum of financial and moral support from the State and corporations, fail even to pay the interest on and sinking fund instalments of the loans received from the State for building purposes; so that recently the State was forced to waive the greater part of their debts and to prolong the term of amortization. Besides this they persistently refuse to pay communal sur-taxes, their contributions to draining and dyking charges and other dues, and are allowed to do so without incurring the displeasure of the law. What the effects of their illegal behaviour are, especially on the Hungarian villages in the neighbourhood of their settlements, may be seen at Temerin, an almost purely Hungarian village, which has hitherto been compelled under various pretexts to invest 2,000,000 dinars in the adjacent *dobrovoljaci* settlement, while the settlement owes the village over 2,500,000 dinars for arrears of sur-taxes.

Because of these conditions, which would be inconceivable anywhere else, some of the Hungarian villages have been brought to the brink of financial ruin.

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## PROMISES AND REALITY

In one of its April issues the "Samouprava", the mouthpiece of the Radical Party (Government Party), invited the minorities to join the Government Party; in return for this they may hope that... their grievances will be redressed and their claims complied with "within the limits of the law". It is not the first time that the Government, or its Party, has approached the minorities in such a flattering manner, but so far such promises have never been followed by actions. Nor is it likely that the situation will change now. The following cases seem to confirm our opinion. At the end of last year the municipal council of Zenta, a city with a considerable Hungarian majority, submitted a memorandum to the Ministry of Education, asking it to allow the city to re-open at its own expense the four upper classes of the grammar school, which the Ministry had some years ago decreed to a lower-grade school (with only four lower classes). The petition was refused by the Ministry (on April 23rd, that meaning that the 30,000 Hungarians living near the river Tisza (in Yugoslavia) are not allowed to have a Hungarian secondary school even at their own expense. The new municipal council of the city of Újvidék (Novisad) which was appointed on April 14th, has only five Hungarian members, though the minority, forming one third of the population, would be entitled to hold at least 18 seats on the Council.

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## B O O K S

V. M. Goblet's „*The Twilight of Treaties*“  
Translated from the French by Warre Bradley  
Wells. (London, G. Bell and Sons Ltd.)

M. Goblet is a famous French geographer. In this work of his he proves that without an accurate knowledge of natural circumstances, geographical conditions and cohesions, it is impossible to settle successfully the political conflicts that arise among the nations. Statesmen, on the whole, are inclined to treat international intercourse and the clashes that disturb it from a political point of view, and solely as legal questions. And yet the problems which set the nations against one another cannot be solved satisfactorily unless facts and the given circumstances are taken into account, and the actual needs of the living communities of the human race supplied. The nature of a region, its geographical situation, its natural resources, the way of life of its inhabitants, their possibilities of livelihood and wage-earning, are all factors closely linked together. Political attempts to eliminate coherence and interdependence, and to distribute the component parts among other kinds of circumstances,

are costly, dangerous and usually futile experiments. The spirit of modern times will not brook such artificial and forced adjustments. It is high time to allow the points of view of geography, natural history and economics free scope.

In connection with the decisive influence of the geographical factors the author treats separately of the Saar, Schleswig, Danzig, Austria, Mandsukuo, Abyssinia and the Chaco — all of them problems towards which the attention of public opinion has been directed during the past few years. M. Coblet considers Mandsukuo, for instance, a sort of extraneous, separate province of the Chinese Empire, which never was an integral part of China proper, and the development of which has naturally led to its separation from the latter. Two possibilities existed. Either Mandsukuo would belong to China, or a new political formation would arise and link Korea with Mandsukuo and Inner Mongolia. Geographical factors were against the first solution. But they could never have accomplished what they did without Japan's political intervention. Japan, on the other hand, would have