

threatens those *who have performed or are still performing "levente" (school corps) service* under the Hungarian Physical Education Act, — those who belong to ex-servicemen associations or are members of any Hungarian club or political party *whose programme includes the revision of the Treaty of Trianon*. When we take all the above possibilities into account, we see that the list includes so comprehensive a category that *there is scarcely a single Hungarian national not liable to be called to account in Czecho-Slovakia on the above pretext*.

There can be no doubt that the best way to avoid arrest and to prevent all chicanery is *not to enter the territory of a State which does not guarantee us the*

liberty due to us under international law. It is a well-known fact that *many Hungarian nationals have already been committed to Czecho-Slovak gaols and have undergone long terms of confinement*, though when they entered the country never even dreamed that they could be called to account by the Czecho-Slovak authorities as "political criminals".

Minors and simple citizens have fallen victims to their purses having contained certificates of membership of clubs or to their cigarette-cases having been found to contain "Levente" cigarettes, — or to ill-wishers in Czecho-Slovakia having supplied information denouncing them as members of patriotic clubs and associations.

HOW MINORITIES LIVE

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

THE FRONTIER ZONE ACCORDING TO THE NEW CZECHO-SLOVAK ACT

The new Czecho-Slovak Defence of the State Act renders it possible to put into force already in times of peace as against the inhabitants of the frontier zone measures which are diametrically opposed to the oft-stressed "democratic character" and "love of liberty" of Czecho-Slovakia and are indeed such as even dictators shrink from having resort to.

According to § 34 no building whatsoever can be constructed in the frontier zone except with the previous approval of the military administration. Such approval is also a *sine qua non* of the transformation of forest-land into territory of another character — and vice-versa. Where the military administration may consider such a course necessary, an owner will be required to execute the transformation of an already completed building stipulated by the authorities or at least to tolerate such transformation being effected. The Ministry of Public Works may in agreement with the Ministry of National Defence ordain that high-tension electric lines — particularly such as cross the frontiers of the country — shall be cut off and the technical equipment removed as required. The State administration of justice may have such work done also at the cost of the owner. Should such procedure be urgently necessary in order to further the defence of the Republic, *landed estates in the frontier zone may be expropriated by the State. No foreigners may be granted permission to sojourn or reside in the frontier zone without the approval of the military administration*.

According to § 49, should "foreigners" — this including fictitious persons and proprietaryships too — acquire estates, property or other material rights (excepting only mortgage rights) in the frontier zone or obtain a lease or tenancy of such, they must report such acquisition to the provincial office. This requirement relates also to mining, water, shooting and fishing rights too. The provincial office may with the

approval of the military administration impose upon the acquirers such restrictions and conditions as it may think fit, or *may order the rights thus acquired to be ceded within a short limit of time to Czecho-Slovak nationals* or to the State — to the organs of the territorial self-governing bodies, or to fictitious persons or associations specifically exempted from the obligation of registration (§ 50). Should the owner in question fail to comply with these instructions, on the proposal of the provincial office the local court may sell the right in question at his (the owner's) cost as provided in the regulations governing voluntary auctions. The provincial office may however ordain the application of some other method of liquidation and may indeed annul the right in question. The relevant Order in Council may on the other hand determine exceptions to the rules fixed in the voluntary auction regulations (§ 51). These latter provisions in no wise affect the validity of international treaties.

In terms of the Executive Decree, 55 of the 106 political districts in Bohemia (47.4% of the whole area of this province), 22 of the 53 in Moravia and Silesia (46.7%), 48 of the 79 in Slovakia (62%), and 12 of the 14 in Ruthenia (94.8%) are in the frontier zone. As may be seen in the map on page 21, exactly 56.5% of the territory of the Republic is in the frontier zone, which comprises almost all the areas inhabited by the Hungarian, German, Ruthenian, and Polish minorities.

Under the Executive Decree the building in the frontier zone of *inter alia* churches, theatres, exhibition halls, roads, buildings with tall chimneys, hotels, shooting-lodges, tourist hostels, watchtowers, etc., etc. is subject to the previous approval of the military authorities. Similarly, all licences issued to messengers, porters, hawkers, chemical works producing poisons for medicinal purposes and other preparations, hotels, irons, people engaged in the extermination of rats and mice and other vermin, ragmen, bureaux supplying information *resp.* the solvency of borrowers, travelling offices, private detectives, film companies, etc. must be first approved by the military authorities. In this way numerous phases of minority civil life will be controlled by the military authorities, even if — as in the instances above-mentioned — those phases have nothing to do with the interests of the army or the Defence of the State.

SECOND STAGE OF BAZOVSKY TRIAL

On June 8th the Court of Second Instance in Pozsony (Bratislava pronounced judgment on Louis Bazovsky, the well known Slovak Autonomist and the first Czecho-Slovakian župan of the county of Nógrád, and his five companions, who were charged with a political offence. Our December issue contained a report of the trial. The Court of Second Instance have raised the sentence pronounced on Anthony Pavlička, a lawyer of Besztercebánya (Bánska Bystrica), from 12 to 18 months' imprisonment, but has acquitted Paul Németh, a teacher of Rozsnyó (Roznava). The Court in Pozsony did not find the charge that Bazovsky and Pavlička had been trying to separate Slovakia from the Republic by violence proven but sentenced them for trying by violent means to achieve Slovakia's independence. Pavlička's counsel for the defence and the Public Prosecutor both lodged a plea of nullity. Dr. Durčansky, counsel for the defence, published part of the material pertaining to the case in the form of a pamphlet, which was however confiscated by the Public Prosecutor after Dr. Durčansky's flat had been searched.

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WIFE OF LUTHERAN PASTOR ARRESTED

Although the arrest of minority citizens on political charges is a matter of everyday occurrence in Czecho-Slovakia, the whole of Slovakia was startled to learn that the wife of the Rev. Charles Hoffmann, Lutheran pastor of Gölncibánya, had been arrested at the beginning of June and imprisoned in the district jail at Rimaszombat. The arrest is all the more perplexing as the authorities have not seen fit hitherto to give any reason for it.

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RUMANIA

FOUR HUNGARIAN JOURNALISTS FORBIDDEN TO WRITE FOR YEARS

The Court of Cassation, the highest Court of Justice in Rumania, has confirmed the judgment sentencing Miklós Krenner, the doyen of the Hungarian journalists in Transylvania, to 2 months' imprisonment and to the suspension of his political rights for 5 years, and forbidding him to pursue his occupation as journalist for a period of 3 years; — all because of one article. Recently a striking number of Hungarian journalists have been forbidden to continue their work. Thus in Szatmár, Albert Figus, one of the editors of the "Szamos", is not to be allowed to take pen in hand for 3 years, and the newspaper has been ordered to dismiss him without delay. The "Ujság", another Szatmár daily, was also ordered to dismiss two Hungarian journalists upon whom a similar sentence had been passed (Brassói Lapok", May 29).

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REGISTRY OFFICE RUMANIANIZES HUNGARIAN FAMILY NAMES

In Szatmár the Registry Office is changing Hungarian family names without any legal warrant. Kovács is registered as Covaciu, Csengery as Cengheri, Cseh as Ceh, and Szilágyi as Silaghi. This procedure is diametrically opposed to the provisions of the new Rumanian Name Act and the reassuring statements made in connection with it by Cabinet Ministers. ("Brassói Lapok", May 22.)

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HUNGARIAN CHILDREN THRASHED FOR SPEAKING IN HUNGARIAN OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS

In the State elementary school at Bonyha (Bachnea) the Hungarian children are being beaten for speaking Hungarian, or singing Hungarian songs, during playtime or in the streets out of school hours. It happened recently that several school-children had been playing in the meadows, and on their way home began to sing a Hungarian folksong. Their teacher turned on them, threatening to beat them if ever they dared to sing Hungarian songs again. The next morning the teacher thrashed six of the little Hungarian children for their "crime" of the previous day. ("Kéleti Ujság", May 30.)

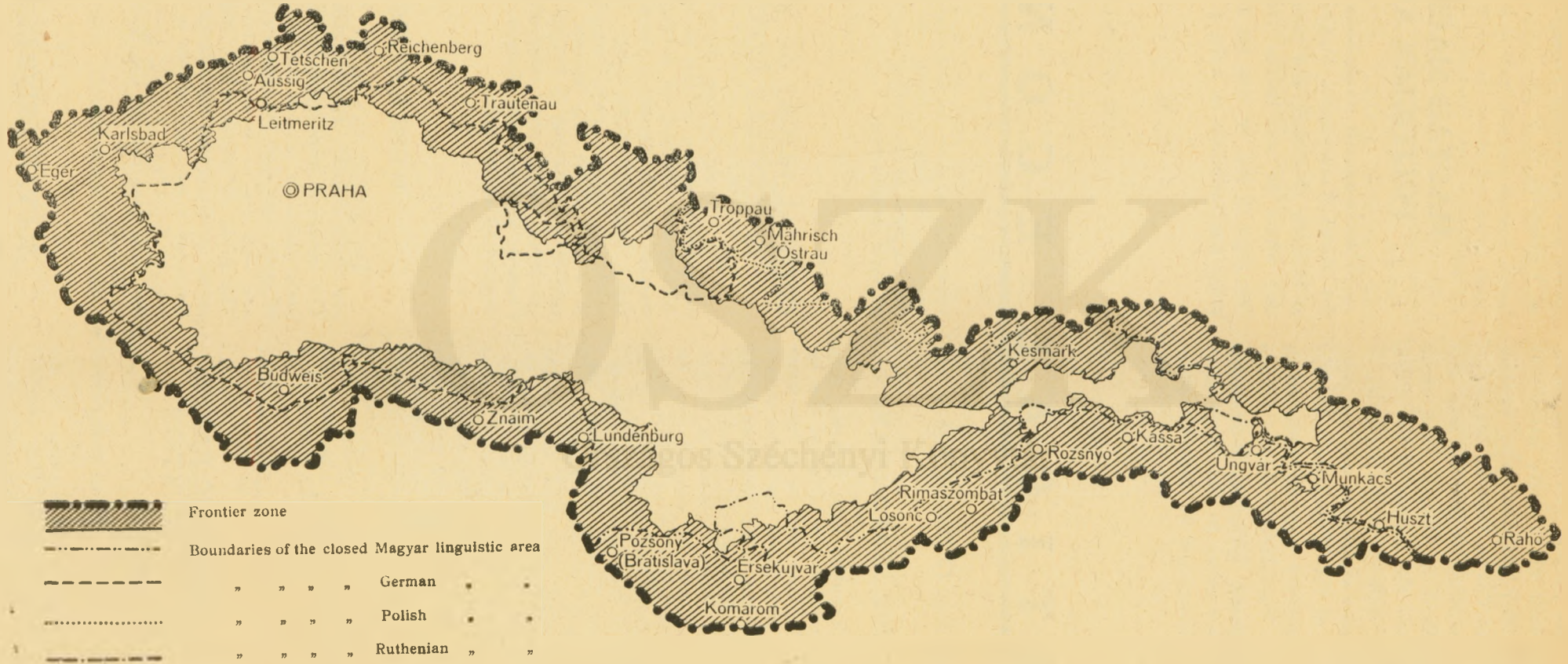
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YUGOSLAVIA

CROAT NATIONAL MOVEMENT LAUNCHES

The Yugoslav Dictatorship not only introduced a system of the most ruthless censorship of the press, but has also with its aid suppressed the newspapers it did not approve of. This is why the Croat national movement led by M. Maček has had no organ for years. The gap will now be filled by the "Hrvatski Dnevnik", a daily the first issue of which appeared in the latter half of May. It was 16 pages in extent and was printed in 30,000 copies. The leader in the first issue, "Croat National and Peasant Movements", was written by M. Maček himself. The gist of it was that Croat popular politics was against tyranny whether foreign or domestic.

What M. Maček's views on the subject of a sound solution of the Croat question are, may be gathered from a statement of his in the "Populaire" of May 27th. In it he explains that the old Serb Opposition and the present Government Party had proposed to liquidate the Dictatorship on the basis of the Constitution of 1931, while the Croats, on the other hand, were of the opinion that the Administration system of January 6, 1929 with all its consequences was utterly illegal, so that *de facto* Yugoslavia had no Constitution. Therefore a national assembly to draw up a Constitution must be elected by honest ballot



and the decision left to the people, who would surely draw up a Constitution with which every nationality would be satisfied. The only question was whether Belgrade would understand this in time. In conclusion M. Maček expressed his satisfaction that the men who had now got the upperhand in France were those who had always recognized the justice of the Croat cause and had lent their support to the struggles of the Croat nation. M. Maček's statements and the comments of a collaborator of the "Populaire" to the effect that Yugoslav Democracy was disappointed in M. Stojadinović, as were Yugoslavia's sincere friends in France, were so unpleasant for the Government circles in Belgrade that according to the "Populaire" of May 30th, the issue containing M. Maček's state-

ments was suppressed through the length and breadth of Yugoslavia.

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MAGYAR MACEK PARTY POLITICIAN ARRESTED

Shortly ago Dr. Ivan Nagy, a former candidate of the Maček Party and a Magyar by race was arrested at Ujvidék (Novisad) and taken to Óbecse (Stari Becej) where he was beaten almost to death. After a few days in jail he was set at liberty. The Yugoslav press was forbidden to write a word about this matter.

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P O L I T I C A L E C O N O M Y

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

DEFENCE OF THE STATO LOAN

The Defence of the Republic loan is being subscribed now in Czecho-Slovakia. In terms of the relevant Act of Parliament the loan will be of two types — 3% and 4.5% bonds. Both kinds are to be repaid within 50 years from 1938, in uniform annuities as the lots are drawn according to a special amortization plan. The 3% bonds will carry special privileges. Their interest, for instance, will be exempt from revenue tax — an unprecedented thing where State bonds are in question. Besides this, subscribers to the 3% Defence of the Republic loan are to enjoy an extensive amnesty. This means that if the moneys used to pay for the bonds were incomes, revenues, or capital hitherto not declared, they and the returns on them for the year 1935 will be exempt from revenue, income, turn-over and luxury taxes. Furthermore no criminal proceedings will be instituted against investors who did not declare those revenues, increments and incomes in 1935 or the previous years. This Act of Parliament was sponsored by Government at the time with the explanation that circumstances made adequate armaments imperative. This naturally meant increased and extraordinary outlay which could not be covered by the Budget. The sums required had therefore to be produced by means of a loan.

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CZECH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY URGES FURTHER DEVALUATION OF CZECH CROWN

In their programme of work the Czech Social Democrats, the second largest Party in the Government coalition, are now urging an increase of the amount of money in circulation, which they consider disproportionately small. They also demand a more elastic credit policy, which in given circumstances would make a further devaluation of the Czech crown possible. An extension of the credits needed for in-

vestments, as well as the elimination of the disparity between the Czech crown and the English pound, for the purpose of furthering exportation, is also an item of their programme.

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CRITICAL PLIGHT OF WATERING-PLACES IN WESTERN CZECH PROVINCES

The Czecho-Slovak Minister of Commerce has pronounced a ban on the payment of credit advances to German visitors. In consequence the spas in the western Czech provinces, such as Karlsbad, Marienbad, Teplitz-Schönau, etc. which depend almost solely on visitors from Germany, will find themselves in a sad plight this season. The proprietors of the spas in question met in Prague to discuss what was to be done, and sent telegrams to Dr Beneš and Premier Hodža asking them to take steps to avert the impending catastrophe.

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WHEAT PRICES DOWN

The leading men in the Ministry of Agriculture are again studying the question of a wheat monopoly. The measures concerning a wheat monopoly are, we understand, to remain unchanged. The market prices of grain and also the producers' prices of rye, barley, and oats are to be maintained at their present level. The price of wheat which the producers are to receive, on the other hand, is to be reduced. With these measures a two-fold object is to be served: a limitation of the wheat growing areas and an elimination of the risks incurred by the State through its purchase of wheat.

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„SLOVAK PRIVILEGE,, ABOLISHED

The "Národný Listy" reports that the Ministry of Trade and Commerce has withdrawn until further notice the "Slovak privilege" where certain com-