

HOW MINORITIES LIVE

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

NO SOLUTION OF SUDETA GERMAN QUESTION POSSIBLE WITHOUT AUTONOMY

The Party Assembly of the Sudeta Germans convened to meet at Falkenau on August 29th and 30th was prohibited by the Czecho-Slovak authorities on the plea that the Assembly would have met in such enormous numbers that it would have been bound to endanger public order. In answer to the prohibition almost all the inhabitants of Falkenau marched out on the day on which the Assembly was to have met to an outlying forest, the result being that on the Sunday in question the town was practically depopulated. At the party meetings held since then at Römerstadt and Karlsbad Conrad Henlein once more most energetically demanded autonomy for the Sudeta Germans. In his speech at the latter place during the meeting held there on September 6th Henlein made the following statements:

"Our native land, which has been saturated with the blood and the sweat of our fathers, belongs for ever to us Sudeta Germans. Our native land is Germany and we must use our utmost strength to ensure that our native land shall always remain German. It is impossible to exterminate three and a half million Sudeta Germans... We must never cease proclaiming that for us there can be no solution of the Sudeta German question until our demand to be granted the right of self-government in our own affairs has been definitively complied with."

"THE TURN OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIA IS COMING"

The following interesting news was published in the Sept. 7 issue of the Daily Mail on the Sudeta-German question.

That synthetic State contains three and a half million Germans. Nazi racial principles claim them for Germany. Under false representations by the Czech delegates at the Peace Conference they were transferred from Austria to the new hybrid nation of Czecho-Slovakia created by various peace treaties. A million Hungarians were annexed in the same way.

These racial minorities have never been assimilated. Harsh treatment by the Czech Government makes them increasingly conscious of their captivity in a strangle land. But for Czecho-Slovakia's associations with France and Russia it is doubtful whether they would have remained unliberated so long. Continuance in their present condition is manifestly impossible.

If the British Cabinet were disposed to make a practical contribution to the peace of Central Europe it would offer a discreet word of advice to the Czech Government. The speedy grant of local autonomy to its German and Hungarian populations is the only means of averting the critical situation which will otherwise soon confront Czecho-Slovakia.

THE SLOVAKS CONTINUE TO INSIST ON THE PITTSBURG CONVENTION

In connection with the arrival in Kistapolcsány (Topolčianky) of President Beneš, the September 2nd issue of the "Slovak" once more demanded the realisation of the autonomy promised to Slovakia. "We welcome the first citizen of the Republic"; — so wrote the organ of Monsignor Hlinka's Slovak Autonomist Party — "President Edward Beneš, as we welcomed his predecessor in office fifteen years ago, "in the name of the Conventions of Cleveland, Moscow and Pittsburg".

In these three conventions, namely, the Czechs of Russia and America respectively during the Great War undertook obligations to grant the Slovaks the most far-reaching legislative, administrative and judicial autonomy. The Pittsburg Convention was signed by President Masaryk himself, who later on, however, repudiated the binding character of the convention. In a speech delivered at the Rózsáhegy (Ruzomberok) station in September, 1921, Monsignor Hlinka reminded Masaryk, then on tour in Slovakia, of the terms of the conventions; but the Czechs have not yet granted the autonomy they promised to the Slovaks. The "Slovak" now addresses to Masaryk's successor the very words addressed by Hlinka to Masaryk when the latter was President.

THE STRUGGLE FOR THE RUTHENIAN AUTONOMY

The struggle to obtain the Ruthenian autonomy so long promised is still being carried on. The Central Little Russian National Council demands that the Government shall put into force the principles laid down in the Minority Treaty of Saint Germain. It demands that the power shall be handed over at once to the Governor of Ruthenia, and that the Ruthenian language shall be introduced for use in the schools and courts of law and in the public administration generally. The Council demands that elections shall be held at once in order that the "soym" may be able to begin its activity on January 20th next. The most important of the demands formulated by the Council is that relating to the demarcation of the western boundary of Ruthenia in order to annex to Ruthenia the hundreds inhabited by Ruthenians now belonging to East Slovakia. This initiative work is welcomed also by the "*Kárpátaljai Magyar Hirlap*" ("Hungarian Journal of Ruthenia"), the organ of the Hungarian parties in Ruthenia.

THE RUTHENIANS OF EASTERN SLOVAKIA DEMAND A PLEBISCITE TO DETERMINE RUTHENIA'S FRONTIERS

According to Article 10 of the Minority Treaty concluded between Czecho-Slovakia and the Allied and Associated Powers, the country of the Ruthenians,

which lies South of the Carpathians, is entitled to the most extensive autonomy. The Czecho-Slovakian Government, which hitherto has not realized one single letter of this obligation, from the very outset drew the frontier of Ruthenia in such a manner that, according to the 1930 census, 91,000 Ruthenians do not belong to the autonomic territory but to Slovakia. In reality the number is considerably larger. At a meeting held in Eperjes (Prešov) the Ruthenians of Eastern Slovakia protested against this. A permanent committee of 30 was formed to remind the Czecho-Slovakian Government and the political parties, as well as the whole of the Ruthenian nation, that, in terms of the Treaty of St. Germain, all the Ruthenian territory under the Eastern Carpathians is entitled to autonomy. The meeting demanded a plebiscite in the regions of Eastern Slovakia inhabited by Ruthenians, in order to give the people a chance to determine whether they wished to join the Ruthenian territory entitled to autonomy. It also demanded the introduction of Ruthenian as the language of tuition in the schools and the appointment of Ruthenian teachers and school-inspectors, and that if parts of Eastern Slovakia inhabited by Ruthenians were not attached to Sub-Carpathia, then the Governor of that Province should be given the right of veto in matters concerning the Ruthenian population there.

LANGUAGE GRIEVANCES OF HUNGARIANS

The Hungarian Deputies and Senators of the Prague Parliament recently made representations to the Czecho-Slovak Government in the matter of the language grievances and demands of the Hungarian minority.

After explaining the relevant provisions of the Minority Treaty of Saint Germain and of the Czecho-Slovak Constitution, the political leaders of the Hungarian minority above all emphasise the fact that „before calling the attention of the Council of the League of Nations to their grievances, they are appealing as they have always done hitherto to the Czecho-Slovak Government for the redress of their grievances. Should the Government so desire, they are prepared to offer detailed evidence of their statements and a full expression of their wishes”.

The lengthy Memorandum offers the following description of the situation:

The Ordinance regulating the carrying into effect of the Language Act provides that in all judicial circuits in which the Hungarians (Magyars) constitute more than two-thirds of the population all public offices, courts of law, sheriff's offices etc. shall communicate with parties alike orally and in writing exclusively in Hungarian.

The circuit magistrates and the courts of law to which they are subject nevertheless reply to all applications in Hungarian exclusively in the State language, issued indictments exclusively in the State language, issue land register and firm register documents exclusively in the State language (Czech); the text of all extracts from land registers is also written exclusively in Czech; the judges (magistrates), sheriffs and officials functioning in the courts are persons unacquainted with the language of the minority; there are no sworn interpreters in the courts of law; and notices of sales by auction are posted in the villages exclusively in the State language (Czech). The situation is the same also in those local courts and superior tribunals in which — owing to the fact

that the Hungarian minority constitutes more than 20% of the population — the use of Hungarian is allowed too.

The courts of law to which the local (hundred) courts are subordinated generally speaking do not issue any findings in Hungarian, even where the applications are in Hungarian. The judges and clerks functioning in the various councils are persons unfamiliar with Hungarian who are unable to understand a word when the proceedings are carried on in that language.

The Government keeps continually changing the areas (circuits) of the local (hundred) courts, thereby arbitrarily eliminating the minority character of the various hundreds.

In the minority circuits (hundreds) the State registers are kept exclusively in the State language (Czech), extracts being supplied to parties only in that language. All certificates of poverty, frontier licences, certificates of *pertinenza* and of citizenship and passports are issued — contrary to the provisions of the law — exclusively in the State language. Parish notices are also drafted only in the State language.

The official organs and ordinance gazettes of the ministries and of the public offices of Slovakia and Ruthenia are issued exclusively in the State language (Czech). The Law Journal is indeed issued in Hungarian too; but it often happens that by the time the translation of the same appears the law or ordinance in question has already become invalid.

The provisions of the Languages Act are ignored also by the industrial corporations, the chambers of commerce and industry, the various other chambers and similar bodies, the sick relief funds and the several endowments.

There is not a sufficient number of Hungarian (Magyar) schools; and the Languages Act is not observed even in the existing schools.

The Hungarian secondary schools are everywhere under the direction of non-Magyar directors (headmasters), although there are plenty of teachers (masters) available who are of Hungarian (Magyar) nationality and possess the required qualifications. The Hungarian children are taught the names of places only in the State language and have no idea of the Hungarian name of their respective village (parish) or of the Hungarian name it formerly bore.

In the years immediately following the establishment of the Republic the plenipotentiary Slovak Ministry issued an ordinance making it obligatory to draft shop-signs etc. in the State language, — a measure which did away once for all with Hungarian shop-signs etc. The same is the case with the advertisements of picture theatres (cinemas) and with the texts of film inscriptions.

CULTURAL AUTONOMY AND A DIOCESE FOR THE HUNGARIANS!

Throughout the whole of Czecho-Slovakia — indeed beyond its borders — a great sensation was caused by an article written by Anthony Granatier, Secretary-General of the Slovak League in the “Novy Svet”. In it that militant representative of Czecho-Slovakian aspirations, amongst other things, said:

“Hitherto Prague has always looked upon the Hungarians as individuals and not as a national unit. The truth is that Czecho-Slovakia is not a national but a nationality state in which the Hungarians, too, have their own demands. Therefore the Hungarians

must be granted, in the first place, cultural autonomy and then a Hungarian diocese".

Granatier then went on to say that Hungarian institutions should get their proper share of the public revenues. He also demanded the establishment of a Hungarian chair at the Pozsony (Bratislava) University and of Hungarian board and agricultural schools, and insisted that the use of Hungarian as an official language should be made compulsory everywhere where the conditions stipulated in the Language Act were forthcoming.

This article, which proves better than anything else that the Hungarians are justified in their demands, and that the leaders of the "Czechoslovakizing" organisations themselves realize the futility of their endeavours. In view of the general deterioration in the position of the Republic both as regards her foreign and nationality politics, they deem it wise, after eighteen years of oppression and repression, to turn a friendly face towards the Hungarians.

UNFAIR TREATMENT OF THE HUNGARIAN THEATRES

At the beginning of the present theatrical season 3,500,000 Czech crowns accruing from taxes on wireless were distributed to the theatres. Of that sum the Czech and Slovak theatres got 2,381,000 crowns, the German theatres 1,089,000, while the Hungarian theatres received only 30,000, so that less than 1% of the whole sum distributed was given to the Hungarian theatres. ("Prágai Magyar Hirlap", 10th September.)

RUMANIA

RUMANIA'S EDUCATIONAL POLICY TOWARDS THE HUNGARIANS

The openly confessed aim of Rumania's educational policy is to increase the number of Rumanian elementary state schools and at the same time to do away with the denominational schools in which the language of instruction is Hungarian. Now, at the beginning of the new school-year, M. Angelescu, Minister of Education, closed the following denominational schools: the Roman Catholic school at Nyikómalomfalva, the Unitarian school at Székelyszentmihály and the 136 years old Roman Catholic elementary school at Tasnád. Rumanian educational policy has found that the most effective means for Rumanizing the minorities is the creation of new state schools. M. Angelescu forces the building of state schools, especially in purely Hungarian Siculia. Rumanian state schools paid for by Hungarian villages and built by public labour have been established in places where there were good Hungarian denominational schools — and not a single Rumanian inhabitant. The next step was to people them. Trickery or violence was employed to keep scholars away from the denominational schools and shepherd them into the Rumanian ones. This new school-year sees the beginning of a fresh campaign by the educational authorities. A Decree issued recently by the Minister of Education makes the county of Maros-Torda a "cultural zone" and ordains that a state school and a Rumanian infant school must be erected in every Hungarian village in the county, even in the very smallest of them. In

each of the counties of Csik, Udvarhely, and Háromszék from 60 to 80 new posts in state schools are waiting to be filled by teachers who speak nothing but Rumanian. And minority parents who wish to send their children to a denominational school must first prove their "racial descent".

Rumanian policy is careful to prevent Hungarian students from acquiring diplomas. Hungarian secondary school pupils are mercilessly flunked at the secondary school final examinations (baccalaureate). The following table shows the results of those examinations at different places. The figures refer to Hungarian pupils.

Town	Candidates	Passed	Failed
Sepsiszentgyörgy (Mikó College)	10	5	5
Székelyudvarhely (R. Cath. Gymnasium)	17	5	5
Brassó (R. Cath. Gymn.)	6	1	5
Székelykeresztur (Gymnasium)	10	4	6
Csikszereida (R. Cath. Gymn.)	12	4	8
Szatmár (Ref. Church Gymn.)	10	—	10
Gyulafehérvár (R. Cath. Lyceum)	15	6	9
Temesvár (Piarist Gymn.)	12	4	8
Arad (R. Cath. Gymn.)	5	4	1
Kolozsvár	117	30	87
Total	214	64	150

According to this table of the 214 Hungarian students only 64, or 30%, passed while 150, or 70% failed.

THE PROPERTY OF THE PREMONSTRATENSIAN ORDER SEQUESTERED

The real estate belonging to the Premonstratensian Order in Nagyvárad, which consisted of the monastery, a secondary school building and the church, was conveyed by the Land Registry Office to the State, merely on the strength of a petition lodged by Professor Onisifor Ghibu of the Rumanian University in Kolozsvár. The reason given was that the Order was not a fictitious person. The Land Registry Office simply accepted Ghibu's statement that the Hungarian State had only allowed the Order the use of the property in question. The deed of conveyance was served on the Provost of Jászó in Czecho-Slovakia. Here let it be said that in 1927 the Rumanian State recognized the Premonstratensian Order as a fictitious person, so that the right of the Order to the property in question is indisputable ("Magyar Lapok" September 1.).

A SERIES OF HUNGARIAN MEETINGS PROHIBITED

In the county of Háromszék the authorities refused to countenance the meetings of the Hungarian Party. Even meetings of a religious character are

banned despite the fact that according to the laws of the land, permission to hold them need not be asked ("Brassói Lapok", August 21). — The seventy-years-old Museum Society of Transylvania, which is the oldest and most important Hungarian social and scientific society there, was not allowed to hold the meeting and congress of physicians planned for August 23 to 25th in Temesvár ("Keleti Újság" August 22, No. 192). — The Hungarians of Transylvania wanted to arrange an exhibition under the title of "Sicilian Week" in the Reformed Church College at Marosvásárhely. The permission issued was withdrawn all of a sudden, and when it was given again, it was too late to arrange the exhibition because school was about to begin. ("Ellenzék" No. 192, August 21, 1936).

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THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF LAWYERS REJECTS MINORITY PROPOSAL OF RUMANIAN LAWYERS

At the recent congress of the International Union of Lawyers held in Vienna the members were painfully surprised by a proposal presented by the Rumanian delegation to the effect that in every country only such lawyers should be allowed to practice in the courts of law who use the State language of the respective country. The proposal — as every one saw immediately — was intended primarily to prejudice the rights of Hungarians living in the Little Entente States. A protest having been made by the Hungarian delegation, the President of the Congress, M. Appleton, refused to allow the proposal to be even put to the vote.

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YUGOSLAVIA

M. STOJADINOVITCH'S FIFTEEN MONTHS, — NOT A SINGLE AUDIENCE TO HUNGARIAN LEADERS

An article published in the official organ of the Yugoslav Government, the "Samouprava", on August 20th, deals with the conditions of the Voivodina and lays particular stress on the Government's friendly policy towards the Hungarian and German minorities. To demonstrate the truth of this statement, the article informs us that the Hungarians in Yugoslavia are now allowed to hold fêtes and performances of their own, while the colonization festivities of the German villages are even attended by the representatives of the authorities. It must certainly be admitted that the Stojadinovitch Cabinet really shows a little more understanding towards the minorities than its predecessors; the official pressure on the part of the authorities has actually become less of late, and there is a distinct improvement to be observed in the handling of such affairs as cultural and popular performances, passports, etc (the granting of passports being facilitated also by the recent conclusion of various international tourist agreements). While, on the one hand, it is good to record these signs of a more conciliatory treatment of the minorities, which is no doubt

dictated by certain political considerations, it is to be regretted, on the other hand, that this understanding does no show itself in a wider field comprising at least the partial redress of minority grievances and the solution of their most vital political, economic, and cultural problems. As an illustration of the present situation it is interesting to know that for fifteen months, since the Stojadinovitch Cabinet has been in office, the Premier did not give a single audience to the leaders of the Hungarian minority to hear their complaints and desires. This explains the fact why instead of a lang wanted improvement of the situation we are always hering of a continuous repetition of official abuses against the minorities; numerous examples of this will be found in our earlier issues and in the present number.

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HUNGARY NOT ALLOWED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO HUNGARIAN FESTIVITIES IN YUGOSLAVIA

Some of the villages of the Bácska (a part of former South Hungary) have just celebrated the hundred and fiftieth anniversary of their foundation. The festivities of the descendants of the original German colonists were attended by the representatives of the German Legation in Belgrade: delegates from the home villages in Germany, as well as a delegation of the German Union in Hungary, were also permitted to appear at the celebrations. The celebrations of the Hungarian villages, however, were not allowed to be attended either by representatives of the Hungarian Legation in Belgrade or by the delegations of the parent-villages in Hungary. The latter, as undesirable aliens, were simply not allowed to enter the country. This piece of news throws a very strange light on the sincerity of Belgrade's intentions just now when so much is being said about the establishment of friendly relations between Hungary and Yugoslavia.

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IS THIS SELFGOVERNMENT!?

The Ban's Office of the Danube Banate dissolved by order the elected parish council of Óbecse (Stari-beče), the majority of the inhabitants are Hungarians, and has appointed a committee after the pattern of the Rumanian interim committees to manage the affairs of the place. There is not one single Hungarian national on the committee.

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FOREIGNERS MAY NOT PERFORM RELIGIOUS FUNCTIONS IN YUGOSLAVIA

The "Katolicki List", the official organ of the Roman Catholic Archbishopric of Zagreb, published the Ordinance issued by the Ministry of Justice in terms of which under § 3 of the Administration Act foreigners are to be debarred from performing church functions in Yugoslavia territory from May 1, 1937. The church authorities must see to it that their places are filled by subjects of the Yugoslavian State from that date on. *This provision does not apply to priests of Yugoslavian (?) nationality who are subjects of a foreign state, or to Russian refugees.*

The Ordinance strikes a particularly hard blow on the Reformed Church, two-thirds of the adherents of which are Hungarians. The Reformed Church has no independent theological college in Yugoslavia, and as the Calvinist youths who wish to join the ministry are forbidden by the Serb authorities to study at the faculties of theology in Hungary, the only possibility of filling the vacant pulpits is by calling in foreign clergymen.

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HUNGARIAN OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS AND THE YUGOSLAV FILM CONTROL

The motion pictures taken from the Olympic games in Berlin were also introduced, among other places, in Újvidék (Novisad), which is the capital of the Danube Banate. The films which had already gone through the general film control in Yugoslavia were now subjected by the police to a new control, with the result that the parts showing the Hungarian champions and their celebration were ordered to be cut out. That part of the music in which the Hungarian

National Anthem could be heard was softened to such a degree that it could not be recognized at all.

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MAČEK GAINING GROUND IN THE VOIVODINA

In Szabadka (Subotica), on 15th August, the Bounievaz people of the district celebrated the 250th anniversary of the settlement in Hungary of their forbears, who had fled before the Turks. The celebrations were distinctly Maček Party in tone. Deputizing for M. Maček, M. Pernar, former State Secretary, delivered a speech. The flags used were the Croatian colours and loud cheers were given for Maček. All this gave rise to great indignation in Serb official circles. They can see for themselves now that their political repression and economic exploitation of the Voivodina has resulted in estranging the Bounievaz people from Belgrade. Punishment was not slow to follow, for all the Municipality officials and employees not yet confirmed in their posts who attended the celebrations have been dismissed.

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

A U S T R I A

THE HARVEST

The quality as well as the quantity of the Austrian rye crop remains below last year's. Similar conditions prevail in the harvest of wheat, although the decrease is not so considerable as in the case of rye. The quality of the wheat is rather good, though apophysis has been experienced in individual cases. In spite of unfavourable weather conditions the harvest of barley may be called satisfactory, but it has not fulfilled expectations. Oat has been improved by the warm weather in the second half of August, so that it is expected to yield a fairly good harvest with very satisfactory quality. Early potatoes are very satisfying while late potatoes have suffered from the drought. The harvest of coarse fodder promises to be so good that it will lead to a considerable reduction in the purchase of victuals. Maize is expected to turn out well.

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C Z E C H O - S L O V A K I A

DIFFICULTIES OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK CORN MONOPOLY

Czechoslovak corn monopoly begins the new harvest year with a surplus amount of 68.000 waggons of wheat (10 hw. each) left from the past season. The importance of this encumbrance on the Czechoslovak market may be guessed from the fact that this reserve corresponds to half of the yearly consumption. Recent records published by the Statistical Office show that

weather conditions have caused considerable damages so that the total produce in wheat will not be more than 14.7 million double hw. This is 2.2 million hw. less than last year's yield and remains below the average of the past. Thus the available quantity of wheat, adding the surplus from year to the new harvest, will amount to a total of 215.000 waggons. To this we must add 10.000 waggons from Yugoslavia in accordance with existing agreements. This will bring the total amount to 225.000 waggons against the actual consumption of 135.000 waggons, so that there will still be left, at the end of the harvest year, a surplus of 90.000 waggons.

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LIVE STOCK MONOPOLY

The idea of establishing a live stock monopoly has been broached repeatedly at intervals in Czecho-Slovakia, — that depending upon the chances in the political situation. The prices of live stock and of meat are continually rising, and in the question of an increase of animal imports the Ministry of Agriculture has adopted an attitude of refusal at any cost; while nothing — or very little — has so far been done to prevent the raising of prices. According to a report published in the "Brázda" the question of a live stock monopoly has for the moment been shelved. The live stock syndicate has been given a further lease of life; and — so that paper tells us — its lease of life will be prolonged in the future too irrespectively of whether it serves the interests of the general public or of the cattle-breeders — as it certainly does not.

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