

HOW MINORITIES LIVE

FAILURE OF MINORITY EDUCATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN RUMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA

On March 10, 1933, an educational agreement was concluded between Rumania and Yugoslavia with regard to their respective schools in the Banate. In Art. 2. it was provided that in the Rumanian schools in the Yugoslav Banate, and in the Serbo-Croatian schools of the Rumanian Banate respectively, the language of instruction should be Rumanian and Serbo-Croatian respectively. From the third class on the language of the respective State should also be taught during six hours a week; 3 more hours would be allotted for the teaching of Rumanian and Yugoslav history and geography respectively.

It is now reported in the Rumanian papers that the Minister of Education has ordered the immediate introduction of the Rumanian language in the V., VI., and VII. classes of the Serb schools in Rumania. Serbian and religion are the only subjects to be taught in Serb in these classes. The number of Serb confessional schools concerned is 54, comprising 95 departments, many of the teachers being Yugoslav nationals who were engaged under the educational agreement from and have absolutely no knowledge of Rumanian.

In reply to the inquiry of the Serb Greek Oriental Holy Synod the Rumanian Government gave a very interesting explanation: In the Rumanian schools of the Yugoslav Banate, it says, Rumanian was allowed to be taught in the V. and VI. classes. Consequently, the Rumanian Government had thought it fit, on the principle of reciprocity, to apply the same measures with regard to the V., VI., and VII., classes of the Serb schools in Rumania. The Serb consistory in Rumania immediately obeyed the orders of the Ministerial Ordinance, so that now, before the end of the school year, teaching in Rumanian has been introduced in the upper classes of the Serb schools (Magyar Lapok, April 29).

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CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

BILLS RELATING TO MINORITY RIGHTS SUBMITTED BY LARGEST OPPOSITION PARTY OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

On April 27th. the Sudeta German (Henlein) Party submitted six Bills in the matter of the carrying into effect of the Constitution. The substance of these Bills is as follows:

1. *Bill in re the Establishment of Political Bodies for the Protection of the Rights of the Nationalities.* This Bill proposes that the five big nationalities (German, Magyar, Slovak, Ruthenian, Polish) living in the Republic should be organised into separate political bodies possessing the rights of fictitious persons. These bodies would be represented before the State authorities by presidential boards recruited from those Deputies and Senators of Parliament who profess community with the nationality in question. Each of the presidential boards would elect a "speaker" en-

titled to protest against all unconstitutional measures of the authorities, in particular against those in defiance of the principle of equality of rights, and to make proposals to Government and to be shown in advance all Bills relating to minority affairs. Each of these "speakers" would have a special office to assist him in doing his work.

2. *Bill relating to the Nationality and National Censuses of Czecho-Slovak Nationals.* Under this Bill national censuses would be taken in the several villages recording all those Czecho-Slovak nationals belonging to a non-Czech nationality which represents a certain definite proportion of the inhabitants of the respective village. The other Czecho-Slovak nationals and the foreign nationals would be recorded in the censuses taken by the Central Statistical Bureau. The general criterion of nationality would be the mother tongue; only such persons would be entered as belonging to other nationalities who professed community with a nationality ethnically differing from that whose language is their mother tongue — or such as speak and are perfectly familiar with a language differing from their mother tongue spoken in their family or household. Children less than 18 years of age follow the nationality of their fathers, unless their parents decide otherwise. Any infraction of the truth when making declarations in the matter of nationality is liable to punishment under the criminal law.

3. *Bill in re the Right of Application to the Constitutional Tribunal.* This Bill provides for the presidential boards of the nationalities organised into political bodies being entitled to lay complaints before the Constitutional Tribunal established by Law 162 dated March 9th., 1920, which has so far not functioned in a single case.

4. *Bill in re the Punishment by Law of Arbitrary De-nationalisation.* This Bill provides for "sanctions" to prevent all abuses of authority employed for the purpose of de-nationalisation, at the same time providing for the protection of the nationality of Czecho-Slovak nationals, of their education, of the property of nationalities — in particular of land and places of work. Although de-nationalisation by force is forbidden also under the Czecho-Slovak Constitution, the Czecho-Slovak Legislature has so far failed to provide for the carrying into effect in practice of the relevant measures.

5. *Bill in re the Enforcement of National Equality of Rights.* This Bill relates to the carrying into effect of §§ 106 and 128 of the Czecho-Slovak Constitution and provides for the payment by the State of compensation in all cases where the organs of that State have been guilty of any breach of the principle of equality of rights at the cost of citizens belonging to non-Czech nationalities. The object of this Bill is to secure the putting into forces of administrative regulations suited to prevent abuses of the kind.

6. *Bill in re the Responsibility of the State and Other Political Bodies for Injury resulting from Illegal Procedure on the Part of Organs of those Bodies.* This Bill, drafted for the purpose of ensuring the carrying into effect of § 92 of the Czecho-Slovak Constitution, has for its object in reality merely the codification of the principle accepted already by the Constitutional Committee of the Czecho-Slovak Parliament.

These Bills — rejected *a limine* on the Czech side — would, if incorporated in law, be the first step towards a solution of the exceptionally grave nation-

ality problem of the Czecho-Slovak State; and what they demand is less than what by an Act of 1925 Esthonia granted long ago to its far less important minorities.

POLICE INQUIRY AGAINST M. VOZÁRY FOR — SPEAKING HUNGARIAN AT REPRESENTA- — TIVE COUNCIL MEETING

In our last number it was reported that M. Aladár Vozáry, a Hungarian Representative, was called to order by M. Jaroslav Meznik, President of the Ruthenian Representative Council; moreover, M. Vozáry was ordered to leave the hall with police escort and was not even allowed to sit in the gallery. We have pointed out that this treatment was in defiance of the Minority Agreement, as well as of the Czecho-Slovak Language Act and relevant Ordinances.

In addition to the above treatment, disciplinary proceedings have been instituted against M. Vozáry by the Prefect of Police in Ungvár, with the result that M. Vozáry has been sentenced, for "breach of peace in the Representative Council meeting", to the payment of a penalty of 500 Czech crowns, or — failing that — two days' confinement. M. Vozáry refused to accept the warrant, because it was not written in Hungarian; he also declared that he intended to appeal against the sentence; should it become valid, however, he would — as a sign of protest — choose confinement in preference to the payment of a fine.

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BOOKS NOT ALLOWED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

It has frequently been noted in these columns that all Hungarian books must be examined by the Censor of the Police Court at Pozsony (Bratislava) before they are allowed to be distributed in Slovakia and Ruthenia. Here are some books that have been rejected by the Censor: Missionary Calendar of St. Anthony of Padua for the year 1936. — Ancient Hungarian Churches. — Révai's Encyclopaedia. — Rosary Calendar, 1936. — 1815—1920: the History of a Stirring Century. — The Recapture of Buda, 1686. — Dr. Gyula Czapik: Suggestions for Sunday Sermons. — The Work done by Clergy in the History of Hungary and of the world. — Anecdotes of the Great War (by János Komáromi). — Philological Review, Nos. 7—12, 1936. — Pharmacopoea Hungarica Quarta.

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REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL DISSOLVED, BECAUSE IT WANTED TO BUILD A HUNGARIAN SCHOOL

The Representative Council of Kassa (Košice), Slovakia's second largest town, last year decided that the Hungarian and Slovak grammar schools should be built at the same time, and Prime Minister, Dr. Hodža, declared to a Hungarian delegation that this was a perfectly natural and legitimate demand and that there would be no difficulty in realizing the scheme. When, however, M. Maxon, the Czech burgomaster, had resigned office, the citizens were surprised to

learn that the Ministry of Education intended to have only one school, the Slovak school, built now. The Representative Council rejected the motion, whereupon the Ministry of the Interior took an extremely rapid resolution suspending the autonomy of the city, that being followed by the dissolution of the Council and an order for the new elections, even before the Council's decision could become valid. Such are the circumstances under which the citizens of Kassa are now preparing for the next municipal elections.

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IMPRESSIVE FIGURES

At the last census 61.7% of the inhabitants of the village Hegyi declared themselves to be Hungarians. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Education has still omitted to open an elementary school for the Hungarian children, the only school in the village being Czech-Slovak. — Similarly, in the village of Vágsellye there is only a Czech-Slovak municipal school functioning, although the Hungarians represent 55.5% of the total population.

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HUNGARY

PREMIER DARÁNYI OUTLINES HUNGARY'S MINORITY POLICY

In the speech with which he concluded the debate in the Hungarian Parliament on the Budget Estimates Premier Darányi dealt also with the minority question and *inter alia* said:

"The Government takes just as much care to ensure our minorities enjoying the greatest possible measures of cultural autonomy as it is to provide for the full assertion of the rights — the actual equality and liberty — of the Hungarian nationals belonging to non-Magyar minorities. The Government is not content to restrict its attitude in this question to mere passive tolerance — to non-interference with the spontaneous cultural activity of the minorities within the limits in force in respect of all Hungarian nationals alike; it undertakes positive measures of its own for the purposes of creating the conditions ensuring the assertion of the claims of the minority languages in particular in educational matters.

"And in this connection I would in passing call the attention of the House to the fact that the present Government, like all its predecessors, has never differentiated in respect of State grants as between schools with Magyar as their language of instruction and schools whose pupils are recruited from the non-Magyar nationalities. We are fully aware, of course, that the elementary schools functioning in villages inhabited by the minorities are mostly denominational — a small number being parish schools — and that the number of State schools in such villages is a comparatively trifling one. These denominational and parish schools respectively receive very important grants of a permanent character from the State. This circumstance in itself is sufficient evidence and manifest proof that all Hungarian Governments in succession have pursued a policy friendly towards the minorities.

"Our predecessor in office, the late Government, in 1935 issued an Order in Council providing for the establishment of a uniform type of elementary school to apply to both State and parish schools. The Government expressly desired the bodies responsible for the maintenance of autonomous schools to intro-

duce this type also in the case of autonomous denominational schools. I feel convinced that the carrying into effect of this measure now in progress will result in a solution of this question satisfactory from every point of view alike. The present Government has gone farther still in the matter of satisfying the cultural claims of the minorities. In the Estimates now under discussion my Government has asked for a sum to be appropriated for the purpose of raising by one month the duration of the courses (continuation school) hitherto held for the higher education of the teachers engaged in the schools of the German-speaking minority. The Minister of Education proposes to summon a hundred (male and female) teachers to attend the courses to be held during the coming summer vacation.

"Under the Education Department Estimates the Government is making provision also for the establishment at the expense of the State of special courses lasting several months for the improvement of the teaching ability of those teachers who, though they have obtained certificates, have not yet received appointments.

"I considered it necessary to explain with the utmost exactness the actions and attitude of our legislature — of Government and of our public administration: for I wish to prove emphatically that while impelled to demand the enforcement of the rights of the Hungarian minorities guaranteed in treaties, the Hungarian Government itself takes the utmost care to ensure that in Hungary the obligations undertaken in treaties in respect of the non-Magyar minorities shall be faithfully observed and that all legitimate claims of those minorities shall be satisfied.

"The present Hungarian Government — in conformity with the views of all previous Governments and in pursuance of those views — takes the utmost care to provide that the legitimate claims of the non-Magyar minorities living in the country shall in every respect be uniformly satisfied. It takes the utmost care to provide that the minorities shall not in any phase of life whatsoever be made to feel that they are merely second- or third-rate citizens of our country: it indeed ensures them complete equality *de jure* and *de facto* and absolute liberty in every field. As a consequence of this attitude, the present Government — like all its predecessors — refrains from throwing even the slightest obstacles in the way of persons freely choosing their own nationality. The only decisive moment in the question as to whether a person wishes to throw in his lot with the majority or with one or other of the minorities, is that person's own free choice, — not as in certain other countries.

"As a consequence of the personal liberty and equality of rights prevailing the fact of any national belonging to a minority does not involve any disadvantage or advantage — as I have repeatedly explained. And in Hungary no disadvantage can accrue to anyone merely because he possesses a German or other foreign-sounding name. In the event of any concrete complaints in this respect arising and being confirmed by satisfactory evidence, I am prepared to proceed with the utmost rigour."

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RUMANIA

RUMANIAN ADMINISTRATION BANS MINORITY LABOUR

The Rumanian daily Press has already published the draft of an edict (*decret-lege*) amending certain provisions, already weighing very heavily on the

minorities, of the Rumanian Protection of National Labour Act at present in force. Under the new amendment all commercial and industrial undertakings are obliged to see that 75% of their employees are of Rumanian origin (*origina etnica romanesca*). Amongst other things the draft authorizes the Government to appoint commissioners to control the bigger concerns; and these commissioners will have the right to engage and dismiss employees.

The two most important racial minorities in Rumania, the Magyars and the Germans, have protested energetically against the injurious draft. The memorandum drawn up by the Hungarian Party was published in our last issue, together with excerpts from articles in the German press. Further developments are as follows:

According to the "*Siebenbürgisch-Deutsches Tageblatt*" of 27th April, 1937, "the Protection of National Labour Bill secures the Government such powers that it may well be looked upon as the confiscation of private property. The only real object of the Bill is to give the *coup-de-grace* to the economic life of the already sorely oppressed minorities. All official posts have in any case been monopolized by the Rumanians, and it was only in the field of economy that members of the minorities had any chance of finding employment."

On 30th April this same newspaper, in one of its leading articles, stated that the Bill was "an unprecedented case of infringement of legal rights and a great blow not only to a large stratum of the population, but also to Rumanian economic life in general. Nothing of a similar nature had ever been introduced anywhere in the world, — not even in the negro colonies; the very negroes had not been deprived of the right now about to be denied to the minorities in Rumania, namely, the right to work. The Bill is a mockery of democracy and a violation of the teachings of Christianity. It also shows a great lack of a sense of responsibility on the part of Government to introduce a Bill calculated to plunge the minorities constituting nearly one-third of the population of Rumania into destitution."

Under the title of "An Impossible Bill" the same paper on 29th April published an article in which it was emphatically set forth that the draft was a serious infraction of the Constitution and of the Minority Treaty. Not only did it divide Rumanian citizens into two categories, those of Rumanian ethnic origin on the one hand and the racial minorities on the other; it also discriminated between the minorities living in Rumania prior to the war and those who after the war were attached to Rumania, — in favour of the former. This had given rise to that most unjust state of affairs in which the Jews of the Regat (Older Rumania) may be employed on a proportional basis of 75% in private industries, whereas the proportion of the Germans of Transylvania employable in private industries had been reduced to 25%.

On 1st May the paper wrote that at least 10,000 German breadwinners had already been dismissed from the civil service. In 1919 the number of Saxon officers who joined the Rumanian army was 2000. Of these today only 184 were in active service. The new Bill would plunge two or three hundred thousand minority breadwinners into destitution and starvation.

The Saxons of Transylvania have held meetings to protest against a Bill which was a death blow to the minorities. The resolution adopted at one of these meetings runs as follows:

"The German Saxons of *Bârca* gathered in Brassó this day, 5th May, 1937, are greatly agitated to learn that the Government intends interfering arbitrarily in the affairs of industrial and commercial undertakings

belonging to the Germans in Rumania, by forcing these undertakings to employ people of Rumanian ethnic stock, an act equivalent to turning tens of thousands of our German workmen out into the streets, a prey to want. Since the carrying into effect of this Bill would be a flagrant violation of the Rumanian Constitution, the Resolutions of Gyulafehérvár and the Minority Treaty, it would also undermine the foundations of our social order. The German population of the town of Brassó and the district of Barca protest most energetically against the proposed measures and request the political leaders of the Germans to oppose them with all the legal means at their disposal and to take steps to lay the matter before responsible international factors. ("Kronstädter Zeitung, May 7.)

Certain serious Rumanian circles have also raised their voices in protest against a Bill that threatens the very existence of the minorities. M. Dinu Bratianu, leader of the Liberal Party, has declared that a law of this nature could not be passed.

"We must not pursue a risky policy of nationalism" — he said. — "We must not imitate others or improvise in the sphere of legislation, nor must we stir up excitement. We are not Germany where only a few hundred thousands of a 70 million population are minority subjects. Rumania's minorities number four millions. We must pursue nationalism with deliberation, but also by degrees" — said M. Bratianu in conclusion — "otherwise the danger threatens that the economic life of the country will suffer ruin." ("Keleti Újság", March 8.)

In the "Curentul" (Extreme Right organ) M. Istrate Nicescu says that this Bill would empower all Governments to establish economic dictatorship and tread underfoot the rights of the individual in the spheres of private property and private enterprise, even when the owners were Rumanians, if, perchance, they were members of a party opposing the Government. "It is" — says this Rumanian publicist — "as if the night watchman paid to take care of our property were to turn burglar himself."

The "Adverul" asked M. Madgearu, ex-Finance Minister, to give his opinion. M. Madgearu said that if the text of the draft were as proposed, the Bill was such a grave act that he preferred not to express any opinion at all.

The organ of the National Peasant Party, the "Dreptatea", stressed the point that were the Bill to become law, the Minister and his commissioners would, in spite of the provisions of the Constitution, have all the banks, municipal, commercial and industrial undertakings at their mercy.

The "Lupta" describes the text of the Bill published in the newspapers as revolutionary and says that it would mean the end of the Constitution, of civil law and of the rights of the citizens.

Even the "Universul", a newspaper of the Extreme Right, has protested against this introduction of an economic dictatorship.

M. Slavescu, ex-Minister of Finance and Chairman of the Rumanian Manufacturers' Alliance, has also expressed his condemnation of the Bill.

M. Averescu's paper, the "Indreptarea", has launched a violent attack against the Bill, the provisions of which are "sufficient to ruin any undertaking". According to the "Indreptarea" the strictures obviously serve political ends which are to be avoided.

The "Dimineata" of the 26th April published M. Strunga Manulescu, ex-Minister of Commerce's opinion of the Bill. "No matter how far the principle of State interference has been stretched and abused in the past, no law of this nature has ever been conceived

either in Europe or in any other continent. No State, save a Communist one, where the right of private property is denied, may permit the Administration to control the *personnel* of economic undertakings. It is strange that there should be people who believe that private property can be done away with simply by an edict."

M. Merlescu, Professor of Common Law in the Bucharest University, says: "Not to beat about the bush, the new Bill places the management of economic undertakings in the hands of the State. Only in Russia have the means of production been made collective in this way. In my opinion a Minister who is also a jurist of renown cannot possibly endorse this Bill."

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ADVOCATES' CONGRESS IN BUCAREST — ADVOCATES A "NUMERUS CLAUSUS"

The National Union of Rumanian Advocates held a congress in Bucarest on May 9th. The congress declared that the minority lawyers in Rumania must be considered as "citizens of inferior rank", a decision practically depriving a whole generation of lawyers of their daily bread.

The extreme nationalists prevented hundreds of minority lawyers from attending the meetings. The 500 minority and majority lawyers who were kept away by force held a *counter-congress* attended by several Saxon and Swabian lawyers who had never previously played an active part in the activities of minority lawyers.

The following resolution was carried by the National Union of Rumanian Advocates:

"The Chambers of Law must be constituted of members of Rumanian origin only.

In order to carry out the above order (namely, that the Chambers should be constituted of Rumanians only), several earlier registers of the Chambers will be supervised, and every member not satisfying the prescribed conditions will be deprived of his membership.

The National Union of Rumanian Advocates is authorized to put forward suggestions as to how the above object may best be realized. Its resolutions have a binding force for all Chambers in the country.

All those Councils which may disagree with its suggestions, will be dissolved."

The counter-congress, on the other hand, carried the following resolution:

"The Congress finds that any differentiation according to ethnic origin is against the cardinal principles of the Constitution. The Congress calls upon the authorities concerned, instead of discussing political matters, to inquire, as soon as possible, into the real causes of the present crisis and find out how and why — as a result of the cessation of loyal collaboration — the former authority of lawyers has come to be so lamentably destroyed. The Congress protests against the exclusion of M. I. Dobrescu, former president of the Union, from the meetings; it also protests against the procedure by which those delegates who were admitted into the assembly hall were not allowed to speak. The Congress invites all lawyers to fight with full force against the illegal resolutions passed by the Union Congress, because they are against the vital interests of the Rumanian people."

In a letter addressed to Senator D. H. Tomasin, chairman of the counter-congress, Herr Hans Otto Roth, Herr Carl Gündisch, and Herr Hans Brückner,

representatives of the German lawyers, pointed out that at a meeting held at Nagyszeben on April 17th the German lawyers had decided that they would fight by all lawful means for the principle that political rights are equal and may not be reserved exclusively for citizens of Rumanian origin (Magyar Lapok, May 12).

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THE FINANCIAL RUINATION OF THE MINORITIES STILL GOING ON

Further instances of the Government's policy aiming at the financial ruin of the minorities are as follows: At Szatmár several inferior minority railway employees have been dismissed owing to the insufficient knowledge of Rumanian (Magyar Ujság, April 23).

The authorities in Brassó have withdrawn the licences of 12 minority market vendors (Népujság, April 23).

The Prefect of the Police at Nagyvárad ordered several taxi drivers and cabmen to stand for the language examination (Keleti Ujság, April 28).

The system of language examinations has caused so many grievances to the Hungarian minority of Transylvania in the past, that it is by no means surprising to see that the Rumanian Government is now extending this cruel system over the trading class as well. The new Trade Act demands a qualifying examination from all apprentices who wish to become independent masters. In these examinations the main object will not be the testing of their craftsmanship but rather the testing of their knowledge of Rumanian, so that they may well be taken for regular language examinations (Keleti Ujság, April 28).

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HUNGARIAN ARISTOCRAT ARRESTED FOR SPEAKING HUNGARIAN AT THE POST OFFICE

According to Art. 8 § 3 of the Minority Treaty of Paris: *"No restriction shall be imposed on the free use by any Rumanian national of any language in private intercourse, in commerce, in religion, in the press or in publications of any kind, or at public meetings."*

The following is an illustration of how the above international rule is being observed in practice:

Baron Stephen Majthényi, a Hungarian landed proprietor from the county of Kolozs, met a business friend of his at the Post Office of the parish of Örményes (in the county of Maros Torda); they began to talk about business matters in Hungarian, whereupon a *Sergeant of Gendarmes forbade them to continue their conversation in Hungarian*. When Baron Majthényi refused to obey his unjustified orders, he was taken to the nearest gendarme station, from where he was conducted to the parish of Mezörücs and, finally, to the gendarme headquarters at Marosvásárhely. Here the Commander of the Gendarmes promised to take steps against the brutal sergeant for his arbitrary conduct (Brassói Lapok, May 8).

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EVERY SICULIAN VILLAGE MUST BUILD A RUMANIAN CHURCH EVEN IT HAS ONLY ONE RUMANIAN INHABITANT

The Rumanization of the four Siculian (Székler) counties of Transylvania is being carried out with the most desperate effort. At a meeting held in the city of Marosvásárhely on April 21st, M. Anghelescu, the Minister of Education, declared that according to an agreement between the Minister of Religion, the Bishop of Balázsfalva, and himself, it has been decided that every Siculian village must have a Rumanian church built, even if there were not more than *one single* Rumanian inhabitant living in the village. At the same time he declared that he had asked the Metropolis of the Greek Catholic and Greek Orthodox Churches to send Rumanian priests to the Siculian villages of Transylvania; these priests — he promised — would be trained to become teachers and would — similarly as the other teachers of the so-called "culture-zone" — receive a 50% bonus in addition to their salaries.

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99 PUPILS EXPELLED FROM APPRENTICE SCHOOL AT NAGYSZALONTA

The city of Nagyszalonta, the population of which is 90% Magyar, formerly had a complete secondary school of eight classes, which was subsequently re-organized into a four-class school; thereby the Rumanian educational authorities have made it impossible for Hungarian parents to send their children to a Hungarian secondary school. Now it has been made impossible for them to have their children properly trained for any branch of trade. As far back as September last year, the Director of the local Apprentice School warned Hungarian tradesmen of the city to employ by preference Rumanian apprentices, for he would admit such to his school in the first place, the remaining few places being reserved for these minority children who had a sufficient knowledge of Rumanian. On April 16th the Director of the school expelled 99 children from school simultaneously, explaining that the Ministry of Education had ordered the closing down of parallel classes, so that the school was no longer able to receive the former number of pupils. Thus, disregarding the principle of equality as provided in Art. 8 of the Minority Treaty, the children of the Hungarian minority have been deprived of the possibility of becoming tradesmen. It must be remembered, namely, that those apprentices who have not attended an apprentice school are not qualified by the Chamber of Industry (Keleti Ujság, April 18).

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YUGOSLAVIA

PREMIER STOYADINOVITCH AGAIN NEGOTIATES WITH LEADERS OF HUNGARIAN MINORITY

On 28th April, by arrangement, Messrs Imre Várady, Denis Strelitzky and Leo Deák, representing the Hungarian minority in Yugoslavia, saw M. Stoyadinovitch, the Prime Minister, in order to discuss Hungarian grievances and the legitimate demands of the

Hungarian minority. The Premier was supported by M. Stoshowitch, Minister of Public Education, M. Stankovitch, Minister of Agriculture, and M. Jankovitch, Minister of Forests and Mines. M. Várady set forth the complaints of the Hungarians and their legitimate demands, to which the attention of the Premier had been drawn in a memorandum submitted on the occasion of their first conversation with him in the autumn of the previous year. M. Várady laid particular stress on the point that an overwhelming majority of the Hungarian minority had voted for the Government Party at the parish council elections held on 6th December in the Danube Banate, thus largely contributing to the victory of that Party. In the interests of mutual understanding and to ensure the continued support of the Hungarian minority it would now be necessary for the Government to accede to at least part of their demands. One of the most important of those demands was the abolition of the notorious system of name-analysis and a restoration to parents of their natural right to decide for themselves whether they wished their children to attend Serb or Hungarian elementary schools, or the Hungarian departments of Serb schools respectively. M. Várady also pointed out the importance of re-opening the parallel Hungarian branches established in the Belgrade Teachers' Training College which, with the exception of one single class, had been closed in the course of time. The leaders of the Hungarian minority demanded that Hungarian-speaking teachers should be appointed in the Hungarian branches of the elementary schools and that the Hungarian teachers who had been illegally dismissed or transferred to non-Hungarian Banates should be reinstated in their former posts. Another demand was that the regulations of the newly formed Hungarian cultural societies should be approved by Government without delay. This was an urgent matter, for of the 28 newly formed societies hitherto only 2 had succeeded in getting their regulations approved.

The Premier and his Ministers listened with sympathy to the demands made by the representatives of the Hungarian minority. M. Stoyadinovitch himself dictated to his secretary the official report to be sent to the Avala Press Agency and authorized the members of the delegation to make public the same.

A perusal of the above will show that the leaders of the Hungarian minority in Yugoslavia confined their representations to a few legitimate demands. Let us, however, not forget that these minimum demands were urged last October, when, on the 23rd and 24th

of that month, the representatives of the Hungarian minority first saw Premier Stoyadinovitch, and that the Government then promised to grant these modest wishes, which were recognized as reasonable and fair. That definite promise, however, has not yet been fulfilled. It is to be hoped that the promise now repeated will speedily be carried into effect.

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BATTLE BETWEEN GENDARMERIE AND MATCHEK'S FOLLOWERS

On 9th May Senj (Zengg) in Dalmatia was the scene of a bloody battle. Croats returning on a motor lorry to Gospitch from celebrations in memory of Matiya Gubeč, the leader of the Croatian peasant rising of 1513, and of Stephen and Paul Raditch, were stopped by gendarmes, who demanded their papers. When the Croats refused to comply, the gendarmes used their rifles. The charge against the Croats was that they were singing anti-Serbian patriotic Croatian songs. Six were killed and six dangerously wounded. An official report was issued to the newspapers, but only three days after the event, and no comments thereon were permitted by the censor.

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HOW BELGRADE BANNED THE VISIT TO BUDAPEST OF 400 CROATIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Four hundred Croatian students of the Zagreb University (120 of them girl students) decided to visit Budapest and the Budapest International Fair. Their visit was to have lasted three days, from 8th to 10th May. On this occasion the General Union of Hungarian University and College Students had intended to arrange a concert of Croatian music. The Hungarian Students Union made every preparation to welcome the Croatian visitors, but in vain, for *at the last minute* (report says just before the train was due to start) Belgrade vetoed the trip of the Croatian university students to Budapest, not offering any explanation of its action.

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B O O K S

Christopher Sidgwick: "Whirlpools on the Danube" London, 1937. Hutchinson and Co.

In this well-written book the author recounts the experiences gathered on his journey through Central Europe. He makes no attempt to formulate a new solution of the Central European problem, but contents himself with giving a faithful picture, almost a photograph, of what he saw there. For this reason we recommend the book to all, especially to those who have never been in Central Europe. In it English readers will find facts as seen by the eye of a compatriot.

Space does not permit of a detailed review of Mr. Sidgwick's book here. Instead we shall quote a few

extracts dealing with subjects germane to the purposes of this periodical.

To begin with, it is a pleasure to note that immediately on his arrival in Budapest the author was very favourably impressed by the capital of Hungary. "To arrive in Budapest — says Mr. Sidgwick — is to arrive to home. I should not in the least mind if I never set foot in Prague again, but if Hungary were to close her frontiers to me, I would probably shoot myself in my welling misery."

At the end of his book Mr. Sidgwick takes leave of Hungary with the same warm sympathy. He says: