

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:

"To-day the people of Hungary live as no others are living in Europe, and they are doing it without the aid of drugs, without the mountainous tide of screeching and screaming and neurotic dittying for ever washing at their ankles. Even if my first visit had worked to plan even that microbe had not destroyed my tour, I would still be writing these words here; for the man who can be content with one visit to Hungary ought simply to be led away to a quiet corner and shot. The place grows on you and grasps you and seems to squirt a divine soda-water into your blood. Never shall I agree to leave Hungary alone. Never shall I agree to a final visit. Nem, nem, soha!"

What Mr. Sidgwick says about the minorities in Hungary, especially the German minority, deserves close attention from a political point of view. He visited several German villages and gives his experience in the following words: "I had heard enough to suggest that the Hungarians were treating them properly. All Germans I came across on dining out told me that their work went forward smoothly, that they were happy in Hungary (most of them were born there), and that they had no complaints against authority."

Then he goes on to describe the material welfare of the German villages in Hungary and the atmosphere of peace and security in which the Germans have been living in Hungary for centuries. At the close of this passage he says: "Some half dozen of them talked together at me, telling me about the schools, the weekly cinema, their German newspapers, the way their children grow up to be bilingual — a patchy but sincerely told story of average contentment. The films have German captions, the Budapest newspaper Pester Lloyd has a German edition every day; the land gives them a living; the air keeps them in moderately good health..." "and most important of all, they are not nagged at, are not interfered with, by the Hungarian authorities, whom they regard as a type of reasonable and benevolent stepfather."

In vivid contrast to the pleasant impressions received in Hungary, his opinion of the Czechs is that they are concerned solely with their own affairs and do not show the the slightest understanding for the rightful interests of others. This naturally does not help to smooth over the differences prevailing in the Danube Valley or to lay the foundations of sincere peace. Amongst other things the author tells us that he was invited to dine with a Czech gentleman holding an official position. As Mr. Sidgwick thinks that the restoration to Hungary of the Hungarian population living all along the southern frontier of Slovakia would be fair and just, he put the question to his host "Whether Czechoslovakia was ready to discuss the

matter if necessary." And what was the answer to this really moderate proposition? "The result of this innocent little question made me decide there and then to have nothing more to do with officialdom. The man was not only angry, but rude." ... "I would like to think that this man was an exception, that perhaps he had some sour milk for breakfast. But as I look back on my excursions in this country I am forced more and more to accept this sudden outburst of anger, almost malice, as a fair middling example of this Czech hatred for everything not instantly beneficent to themselves." The unsatisfactory situation of the Hungarian minority in Czecho-Slovakia was brought home to Mr. Sidgwick on the spot. Czech propaganda, of course, presents conditions in another light. Mr. Sidgwick then asks the following question: "Where is your justice here, and where is the democracy which the Czechs so delight to spell out for you, and compare with less altruistic régimes abroad?"

In reply to his own question he puts forward some of the most bitter grievances of the minorities, amongst others the provisions, irreconcilable with the spirit of democracy, of the 1936 Defence of the Republic Act.

Mr. Sidgwick paints a darker picture still of the state of matters in Transylvania, of the ruin of that country under Rumanian rule and the terrible oppression of the Hungarian population. Pages are filled with the enumeration of acts of injustice perpetrated against the Hungarians, instances chosen from a mass of similar data. The reader is bound to share the author's opinion that the best title for this chapter would be "Terror in the Village". The first thing to strike Mr. Sidgwick, as it strikes all foreign visitors to Rumania, was the corruption prevalent in that country, of which he tells the following episode: "We came to the frontier station at two in the morning. My railway pass took me no further, so I applied to the guard for another ticket, and was told that this would cost four hundred leis. After an hour's further travelling my ticket had not come, so I found the guard again and asked when I get it. In answer, I got a wink and the offer of two hundred leis, half the price. I later discovered that very few people bother to buy tickets on these railways, but rely on a hundred-lei bribe to see them through."

In conclusion we quote the following sentence summarising the conclusions drawn by Mr. Sidgwick from the state of affairs in Central Europe today: "I would like to have another Versailles Conference now, not to stop the last war but simply to prevent the next one!"

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Sir Robert Gower: *"La Révision du Traité de Trianon et les Frontières de la Hongrie"*
Fernand Sorlot 7, Rue Servandoni, Paris (6^e)

"Treaty Revision and the Hungarian Frontiers" by Sir Robert Gower, M. P., Chairman of the Central European Group of Members of the House of Commons, a detailed review of which appeared in this paper immediately after its publication, has now appeared in French under the title of "La Révision du Traité de Trianon et les Frontières de la Hongrie". The author, who is Knight of the French Legion of Honour, states that in Great Britain public opinion shows strong leanings in favour of a revision of the territorial provisions of the Treaty of Trianon, and that the majority of British Members of Parliament

recognize the necessity and urgency of that revision. Sir Robert Gower makes no attempt to ignore the ties that link France to the Little Entente. He himself is a friend of France and entertains a sincere friendship for the Succession States too. He is nevertheless convinced that a rectification of the artificial status created by the Treaty of Trianon would be in the interest of the Little Entente just as much as in that of Hungary. Prosperity, in his opinion, cannot be restored to this part of Europe until the psychological obstacles to cooperation in the Danube Valley have been removed. Revision of the Trianon Treaty — he

says — would be an act of reconciliation and *rap-prochement*. In Sir Robert Gower's opinion the reason why the United Kingdom holds aloof from measures guaranteeing security in Central Europe is that Britain does not wish to interfere in troubled matters. In conclusion he expresses the hope that his book will contribute to extend the sphere of action of Franco-British solidarity, so that an agreement may be arrived at between those countries concerning the best methods of ensuring lasting peace in Central Europe.

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Just out!

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by Dr. ERNEST FLACHBARTH.

With a foreword by Count STEPHEN BETHLEN.

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P O L I T I C A L E C O N O M Y**CZECHO-SLOVAKIA****STATE REVENUE IN FIRST QUARTER
37 MILLIONS BELOW BUDGET ESTIMATES**

According to the latest reports, tax and duty receipts in the first three months of the current year totalled 213.40 million Czech crowns. This amount exceeds the corresponding item in the same period of last year by 107.81 millions, but it remains 37.21 millions below the Budget estimates.

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**TRAVELLERS NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE
MORE THAN 100 CZECH CROWNS
TO FRANCE**

The Czechoslovak National Bank has warned Travel Bureaus that travellers wishing to go to France to visit the World Exhibition there, may not take more than 100 Czech crowns with them. This sum cannot be raised unless France expresses her willingness to increase the import quota of Czecho-Slovak goods. Owing, however, to the violent opposition of those interested in France, there is very little hope of this.

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**NOT ONE FIFTH OF THE UNEMPLOYED
RELIEF GOES TO SLOVAKIA AND
RUTHENIA**

Under the Unemployed Welfare Act the Ministry of Public Welfare has consented to the continuation of work in the month of April, to the effect of 117.49 million Czech crowns; the Ministry has also consented to the issuing of a loan, free of interest, to the amount of 11.97 million crowns, to be divided as follows: Bohemia 5.76 millions, Moravia and Silesia 4.47, Slovakia 1.6 and Ruthenia only 0.16 million crowns. It is interesting to note, as characterizing Czech policy, that out of the amount of 117.49 million crowns under the poor labour budget Bohemia has received 63—70 million Crowns, Moravia and Silesia 36.36 millions, Slovakia and Ruthenia only 16 and 1.42 million crowns respectively.

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**ABOUT NINE TIMES AS MANY PEOPLE
EMIGRATE FROM SLOVAKIA AS FROM
BOHEMIA**

The Czecho-Slovak Republic between 1922 and 1934 issued 300,717 passports to emigrants. Of these 166,113 (55.2%) were issued in Slovakia and 18,935 (6.3%) in Ruthenia. In other words 60% of the

emigrants from the Republic belonged to the territories wrested from Hungary. Compared with the number of inhabitants, this means that about nine times as many emigrants leave Slovakia as Bohemia and about six times as many as Moravia. And the number of emigrants from Slovakia and Ruthenia is steadily increasing. In 1922 "only" 42.4% of the emigrants were from Slovakia, but in 1934 the percentage was 65.9%. During these thirteen years exactly four-fifths of the Czecho-Slovak peasant emigrants were inhabitants of Slovakia and Ruthenia, a striking refutation of the assertion that Czech autarchy, with its consequent protection of agrarian interests, has been of benefit to the farmers in those provinces. ("Stud", 1937, May 6.)

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HUNGARY**HUNGARY'S ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL
SITUATION IMPROVING**

The figures indicating this improvement are not too high, nor is the percentage at all uncommon. It is all the more reassuring to see that *we have to deal with a systematic growth and a tendency of steady improvement*, not with an occasional change for the better.

When we look at the May report of the National Bank, the change is almost insignificant. The note circulation shows a decrease of 21.8 million pengoe, while the amount of liabilities shows a rise of 21.3 millions; the amount of bills redeemed that of bills tendered by 2.2 million pengoe. The stock of coins, including token coins, shows a rise of one million pengoe.

According to the data of the Central Statistical Bureau, the value of exports in the first four months of this year aggregated 200 million pengoe, being divided among the various branches of production as follows: annual breeding 50.6 million pengoe, agricultural produce 75.4 millions, provision industry 14.9 millions. Thus the quota of these branches of production was altogether 70%. The amount of our imports is almost the same as that of our exports. Under the first hene poultry-breeding heads the list with 6—7 million pengoe; eggs 5.5 millions, feathers 5.9 millions. Poultry breeding with its by products represent a total of 18.5 million pengoe and annual products a total of 17.3 million pengoe on our export list; the exports of pigs being third (9 million pengoe), while horse exports (2.3 million pengoe) and game exports (9 million pengoe) occupy the fourth and fifth place. Corn exports represent 45 million pengoe and almost 2.7 million metric quintals; seeds: 11.2 million