

FOREIGN MINISTER, COUNT CSAKY'S SPEECH IN SOPRON

On 31st May, with impressive ceremony, Count *Csáky*, Foreign Minister, was handed his writ won on the list of the town and county of Sopron. Amidst thunders of applause the Foreign Minister rose to his feet and delivered the following address:

"I wish to express my sincere and cordial thanks to every inhabitant of Sopron for the honour of your confidence in me, for your belief that I shall lead the people of Sopron with faith and unfaltering resolution along the difficult path that we Hungarians have to tread. I am grateful for something else as well. For the self-confidence inspired by the thousands of votes that makes me feel I shall be able to perform the great work before me. What is the work required of us Hungarians? We must re-build our house so that everyone shall find his week-day and, if possible, his holiday niche in it. Our work is cut out for us. Behind the Government there is a mighty Party; the political means have been placed in our hands by the Hungarian nation. The economic means we shall endeavour to secure. I recognize one principle only: every inhabitant of Hungary, without respect of religion or nationality, must be given the same chance of prosperity. This is the only way in which we can be strong in our own country. Our strength depends on two fundamental factors: a love, permeating all individual life, of this thousand-year-old Hungarian soil and the feeling of solidarity with all who live on it."

"Love of this country and a feeling of solidarity — continued Count *Csáky* — create the Hungarian atmosphere, that impalpable nourishing power, that *je ne sais quoi*, without which, as foreigners see and those who have broken away from us feel, it is more difficult for the people who were born in this land to breathe, that is to say, live. We, on the other hand, who are at home feel that for us it is easier to work here, even if technical or material conditions are more favourable elsewhere. This Hungarian atmosphere has a natural frontier, a natural area of expansion or — shall we say — a certain elasticity

which allows of its contracting now and then, but thanks to this same elasticity it is always capable of expanding again, until it reaches the natural frontier set for it by the creative energy of our soil and our people.

"We are fully aware that the Hungarian nation today is fighting its own spiritual battles with itself, and we are also sure that it will win — is sure to win — if it fights with the same sangfroid and resolution with which it fights its physical battles. Were this not so, we should not have a thousand years' history to boast of. Nations with a glorious past may suffer spiritual and material trials, may be shaken, but they will survive all.

"Since the adoption of Christianity many alien spiritual and physical productive forces have taken root and flourished in the Hungarian soil. They adapted themselves, that is to say, to the Hungarian atmosphere, and their subsequent growth was Hungarian in character. Only what is out of place among us perishes, and that always perishes.

"The Hungarian people instinctively feels which alien seed is likely to produce good fruit in Hungarian soil if the plants are well tended.

"It also realizes that to tend them will be profitable. The Hungarian atmosphere would never have spread as far as it has, were our people not possessed of that healthy natural instinct and mental elasticity which has enable it to adopt every sound and profitable idea without relinquishing its own individuality. The nations of the world are astonished that the terrible tides of destruction that for a thousand years swept over us who live here at the cross-roads of the nations were powerless to annihilate us. They are astonished because they cannot know that the Hungarian realm is everlasting because its image is enshrined from the day of their birth in all those who live on Hungarian soil, from whence no physical power can ever obliterate it. This image, filled with the Hungarian atmosphere, has been our protection for a thousand years, and it is also our strong bulwark today, a bulwark more impregnable than the perfect lines of defence protecting the frontiers of other countries of which so much is heard now-a-days."

Irresponsible Elements Tactlessly Interfere with our Private Affairs.

"Not long ago I gave an exposé of our position in international politics. I have nothing to add to that now. Here, close to the frontier of the German Reich, I wish, however, to speak of that country to which we are linked by the ties of a warm friendship. I am fully aware that irresponsible elements, people who think to acquire merit in the eyes of high German circles by making difficulties for us, sometimes tactlessly interfere with our private affairs. In future such persons will find themselves at issue with the might of the Hungarian State, and they will also receive their punishment from the German Reich, for whenever we have had any genuine reason to complain of German citizens tactlessly trying to bring undue pressure to bear upon us, Germany has made amends and visited her displeasure on the delinquents. The leaders of the German Reich well know that the sincere friendship of many million Hungarians is a political and economic asset, and they do not wish to sacrifice it to the more or less incomprehensible aims of a few propagandists led astray by their own inflamed imaginations.

"Here I must point out that the more sympathy with and respect for our German-speaking compatriots we show, the smaller will be the area of friction between us and Germany. Religious or national intolerance is not a Hungarian trait; it was not by Hungarians that it was inculcated in the masses on those occasions in our history when it raised its head. We will not allow strangers to fix a gap between the nationalities living on Hungarian soil and ourselves. Of late, since times have grown so stormy in Central Europe, very strong efforts to do this are manifest.

"The pressure weighing on the Rome-Berlin axis is increasing. The only result thereof so far has been to stiffen its power of resistance. It is nevertheless probable that this irrational pressure will continue to grow stronger. In times like these we must give special proof that it is possible to build on Hungary's friendship. I do not believe that the great nations, no matter to which group they belong, are not aware that our national honour makes it imperative for us to be true to ourselves, to our mission in the Basin of the Carpathians, and loyal to our

friends; for only thus shall we prove worthy of the confidence placed in us by the whole of unprejudiced Europe. Reliability and good repute are at least as great an asset to nations as to banks and economic undertakings. I am profoundly reassured to see that our people are recognized as courageous and resolute, not only in a physical sense, but also in a moral one. That is why others, too, believe in Hungary's future.

"I promise — said Count Csáky in conclusion — not to spare myself where the welfare of the people is concerned, nor will I spare others. By this I mean that I shall expect one and all to work shoulder to shoulder, with might and main, for the Hungarian nation. For this work, of which I shall try to provide an ample amount, due countervalue will be paid.

"I promise peace and quiet so far as it depends on ourselves, for without peace and quiet no work or production is conceivable.

"By peace, however, I do not mean compromise and surrender.

"To everyone we shall render what is due, but we shall also demand our own rights from everybody. I promise vigilance and the protection of individuals and of the nation as a whole. And lastly, I promise a Hungarian future in a Hungarian atmosphere in which all and sundry, fathers and sons, those who are near and those who are far, will find the means of satisfying their growing needs."