

## POLITICAL MOSAIC

### MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT REPRESENTING RESTORED AREAS IN THE HUNGARIAN LOWER HOUSE

On 30th June, a solemn and impressive meeting of Parliament was held on the occasion of the first appearance in the Lower House of the Members representing the restored parts of Upper Hungary and Ruthenia.

When the session had been opened the Speaker, Dr. Coloman *Darányi*, read out the names of the new Members who had been called in, and one by one they filed into the assembly room. The Speaker welcomed them with a speech, after which M. Joseph Király, speaking on behalf of the Magyar Members from Upper Hungary and the Magyar people of those parts, thanked His Highness the Regent, the Hungarian Government, and the Hungarian army for making it possible for those areas of Upper Hungary to return to the mother-country.

The next Member to speak was M. Anthony Kadlec, who on behalf of the Slovak Members, said:

"The Czecho-Slovak Republic collapsed because it was built up on falsehoods. The greatest of all those falsehoods was the assertion that the Slovaks were a branch of the Czech nation and the Slovak tongue a dialect of the Czech language. We, the new Slovak Members of this Parliament, struggled against that falsehood from the very beginning and never ceased to declare that the surest foundation of Slovak national prosperity was the brotherhood of the Slovak and Hungarian nations. We were persecuted for telling the truth, but recent important historical events have justified our attitude. This fills us with joy and satisfaction."

M. Kadlec then went on to speak of the Vienna Award which, along with Hungarians, restored some Slovaks to Hungary. In conclusion, amongst other things, he said:

"We owe a debt of gratitude to the God of the Hungarians, but we also owe one to His Highness, the Regent of Hungary, for his wise and prudent rule."

*Andrew Bródy: The most loyal people of St. Stephen's realm has returned of its own accord to its old country.*

When M. Kadlec finished speaking, M. Andrew Bródy was called upon by the Speaker to address Parliament. The ex-Premier of Ruthenia, who was seated beside M. Stephen Antal in the first row behind the Government Bench, rose to his feet.

"In this solemn and to me sublime hour — he began —

when, as the representative of the Ruthenian nation, I take my place in the sacred halls of the Hungarian Parliament, may I be allowed to render thanks with boundless joy and awe to the Almighty for leading the most loyal people of St. Stephen's Realm back to its thousand-year-old home. (Great applause from all the benches.)

"That people — the Ruthenian nation — was detached, after centuries of symbiosis with the Hungarians, from Hungary twenty years ago without its wishes being considered, against its will in fact, but the suffering and oppression of those twenty years of separation have not broken the spirit of the people. That people has remained loyal to the ideas of St. Stephen and, as its Member of Parliament and the leader elected by the legitimate representative body of the Ruthenian nation, I feel it my duty to tell you, to tell the Hungarian nation, to tell the whole world, friends and foes alike, that the Ruthenian nation has returned of its own accord to the Realm of St. Stephen."

M. Bródy's statement was received with deafening applause. He then continued:

"The Ruthenian nation desires to build its home and ensure its prosperity for the next thousand years together with its ancient sister-nation, the chivalrous Hungarian people. (Cheers) I wish to express my deep gratitude to His Highness the Regent..."

Here for the third time the Members of Parliament rose in a body to cheer Admiral Horthy. When the cheers had died away, M. Bródy continued:

"... who with fatherly care, the wisdom of a great statesman and firm determination made it possible at the right moment for the Ruthenian people, who for centuries had been joined with ties of blood and affection, with unseverable economic bonds, with the links of a common civilization, to the Hungarian nation, to return to the political community whose history they had helped to make and for whose future they were ready to work, to shed their blood, or even sacrifice their very lives" (Sustained applause.)

"It is with particularly deep gratitude that I thank His Highness the Regent for the amnesty dictated by his generous heart. We believe that it will be the means of bringing peace of mind to our people. The Ruthenian nation sends its grateful thanks to the brave Hungarian army (the House cheers the army for several minutes) of which I, as a Lieutenant of the Reserves, am also a member.

"In the most glorious days of Hungary's history the Ruthenian people, Francis Rákóczi II's *gens fidelissima*, rallied round his "Pro libertate" standard to defend the independence of Hungary and its sister-nation the Hungarians. Now in the darkest days of our suffering the chivalrous Hungarian nation sent its

brave army to co-operate with the Ruthenian nation in order to deliver it from alien oppression. Today the two nations hold watch on the ridges of the Carpathians.

"I also wish to express my gratitude to the Hungarian nation for its sympathy during the twenty years of oppression and for not for a single miment giving up the idea of liberating us. And when the historical hour of our liberation arrived the Hungarian nation took us to its bosom with all the warmth of its generous heart.

"Lastly, I render thanks to the Hungarian Press — said M. Brody — for the way it aired our grievances during the past twenty sad years, for the way it kept international public opinion informed of our sufferings and thus helped to bring about the triumph of justice. I also thank the newspapers for helping to make the historical moment of our liberation a stirring festival of reunion and for the spirit of understanding and brotherly love of which they gave ample evidence (Cheers).

"When our liberation became a fait accompli a twenty-year-old dream of two sister-nations came true. We have come here with loyalty, affection and confidence in our hearts and we ask for affection and trust in exchange. After twenty years of uninterrupted trials and disappointments, we now return to the bosom of our beloved mother-country, confident that better days are in store for our sorely tried people and that in this old land of ours we shall receive what, in spite of international treaties, an alien nation refused to grant to us: freedom to live our own national and cultural life within the framework of an autonomy.

"As regards this autonomy I declare in my own name and on behalf of my colleagues and the whole Ruthenian nation that so far as our fate and our future are concerned we are in full agreement with the standpoint of His Highness the Regent (Loud cheers) and the Hungarian Government.

"I thank both Houses of the Hungarian Parliament for giving us the opportunity of collaborating in Hungary's new work of State-building. I solemnly promise that we are ready to do our share with enthusiasm; all we ask is that both Houses of Parliament and the Hungarian Government should trust in Ruthenia and in those Ruthenian leaders of the Ruthenian nation who were faithful to St. Stephen's idea of a political State even though their loyalty meant persecution and imprisonment for them (Applause).

"I pray the Almighty to grant that the Hungarian and Ruthenian nations may always live in peace together and never be separated any more."

With these words M. Andrew Brody concluded his speech amidst loud applause and cheers.

M. GEORGE BARCZA HUNGARIAN MINISTER IN LONDON,  
ON ANGLO-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS

The periodical, "National Art", recently arranged an exhibition of twenty-one living Hungarian painters under the auspices of the Anglo-Hungarian Society in London. In his opening address M. George Barcza, Hungarian Minister in London, declared that a friendly intellectual (non political) interest would render the most valuable service to the cause of Anglo-Hungarian friendship.

"In these critical days (the Minister continued). I am particularly pleased to express the thanks of a nation for the kind interest which another nation is taking in its peaceful artistic efforts. The Hungarian nation is always very anxious to know what the British think of its work, and it is equally pleased to be praised or criticised. I can assure you that both the Government and the people of Hungary sincerely desire to maintain that ancient feeling of friendship between Britain and Hungary which rests mainly on the common heritage of parliamentary system and national independence as well as on cultural progress and the love of sports."

The opening ceremony was attended by a large and distinguished audience.

IS A MINORITY CITIZEN AN ALIEN ("STRAIN") OR A  
RUMANIAN NATIONAL UNDER THE NATIONAL LABOUR  
DEFENCE ACT IN RUMANIA?

In order to protect her national industry and the interests of her own citizens, Rumania on April 3rd, 1930, passed a law declaring that no alien ("strain") may be employed in Rumania without official permission. *But the law of July 14th, 1934, which provides for the "employment of Rumanians in business establishments", does not use the term "alien"; it speaks only of "Rumanians" and provides that 80% of the staff, 50% of the board of directors and the chairman of the board in all establishments must be Rumanians.* Although it is indubitable that the term "Rumanian" does not refer simply to persons of Rumanian racial origin and that the term "alien" can only mean a foreign subject, yet — in practice — the law has come to be applied against the minorities, in spite of the fact that such a procedure is contrary to the provisions of the Rumanian Constitution and to those of the Minority Treaty of December 9th, 1919.

It will be remembered that M. Valer Pop, then Minister of Commerce, on Sept 1937, advised commercial establishments in Rumania to increase — as soon as possible —

the percentage of their employees of Rumanian racial origin to at least 50 per cent. This provision ultimately meant the dismissal of large numbers of minority employees, who were thus deprived of their earnings and consequently, of their livelihood. When the leaders of the Hungarian Party appealed against this procedure to the League of Nations, the only result was that M. Pop issued another circular to the establishments concerned, stating that his former circular was to be considered merely as urgent advice. *Nevertheless, the situation has not changed much since that date, so that the Magyar minority of Transylvania is still permanently threatened by the Rumanian National Labour Defence Act, since the authorities still continue to apply its obscure and ambiguous provisions against the minorities.*

Not long ago M. Ioan Chirila Chief Labour Inspector of the province of Szamos (in Transylvania) declared to a meeting of craftsmen in Kolozsvár (Cluj) that no one was entitled to dismiss minority employees with reference to the Act, as it contained no provisions whatever to that effect.

The above declaration was made at the meeting of a guild numbering 3446 members, in reply to a statement that a number of establishments had dismissed some of their minority employees under the National Labour Defence Act. *This favourable interpretation of the Act is somewhat belated now, since many thousands of minority employees have lost their employments in recent years, simply because of the ambiguous interpretation of the law. The Rumanian authorities have repeatedly inspected various industrial establishments and persuaded them to employ as many Rumanians as possible, in order to secure the progress of the Rumanian racial element in business, so that we may now consider the campaign ended: the Magyar minority has lost all that it could possibly lose; this explains why the Rumanians now assume — all of a sudden — such an amiable appearance of affability and loyal understanding.*

#### MINORITY PROVISIONS OF NEW RUMANIAN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACT

On May 27th, 1939, the Rumanian official gazette published the royal edict relating to the reorganization of elementary education and teachers training.

For the present we would deal only with the minority provisions of this edict. Art. 7. provides that the language of instruction in all State schools shall be Rumanian. In places where the minorities live in large numbers and the number of children of schooling age is at least 20, schools may be established — by permission of the Minister of Education — in which children are educated in their own language, or there may be minority classes opened in the Rumanian State schools.

The minority schools maintained by the State must teach the Rumanian language, the history and geography of Rumania and the elements of political science in Rumanian. — This is the only positive provision contained in the edict. It does not contain the provision included in Art. 8 of the previous law on elementary education, by which all those who were of Rumanian origin but had been assimilated by some minority were ordered to send their children to the State school. It will be remembered that this provision led to numberless complaints arising out of the method of "name analysis". This is the negative side of the new edict.

A whole series of laws provide for the guaranteeing of minority rights in Rumania; among them is also the right of establishing schools in which the minorities may teach in their own languages. In this connection the so-called Minority Treaty. (Paris, December 9th, 1939.) must be mentioned in the first place as a fundamental law. In Art. 10 of this Treaty Rumania undertook the obligation that "in towns and districts where there are large numbers of minority citizens (i. e. citizens of non-Rumanian language) living, the Rumanian Government will offer considerable facilities in education, so that such citizens may be enabled to send their children to elementary schools where they are taught in their own language." In order to illustrate the practical execution of this provision on the part of the Rumanian Government, we would merely quote the following figures: at the end of the school year 1934—35 the nearly two million Magyars of Rumania had only 118 State elementary schools and sections, in which only 11,484 Magyar children were being taught in their own language, while 175,000 Magyar children were simply excluded from this privilege. ("Magyar Kisebbség", Vol. 15, p. 462).

The new edict on elementary education merely advises us to wait and see. In our opinion it is not enough to issue such an edict: the essential question is, whether the edict is carried out honourably in practice. This has never been the case in Rumania, at least so far as minority education is concerned.

### ILLITERACY IN RUMANIA

The daily "Romania" on May 22nd published the following records: at the end of 1930 Rumania's entire population numbered 18,057,026 souls; of these 14,525,878 were above 7 years of age, 6,200,568 illiterate, roughly half the above number. The situation is even more deplorable when we take the entire population, as against the urban population: here we find that 5,490,050 out of a total of 11,362,886 were illiterates.

## REGENT'S AIDE DE CAMP IN SOFIA

The Regent of Hungary recently conferred on the King of Bulgaria the Grand Cross of the Hungarian Order of Merit with the Holy Crown. The Regent charged General Lajos *Keresztes-Fischer*, his principal Aide de Camp, to convey this high distinction personally to the King of Bulgaria as a token of the traditional feeling of sincere and warm friendship between the two nations. The Regent's representative arrived in Sofia on June 21st and remained there until the 24th; he was given an official reception and farewell. The King of Bulgaria received the General in private audience and lunched with him; General Petkow, Chief of the Bulgarian General Staff, also gave a lunch in his honour. On June 23rd King Boris addressed a telegram to Admiral Horthy, thanking him for the high distinction. On June 26th the "Slovo", a prominent, Bulgarian daily, wrote as follows in connection with the distinction conferred on the King:

"This distinction again impels us to refer to the link of fraternity connecting the Hungarian and Bulgarian nations. In this critical period of history, every feeling of friendship — especially if it is unselfish and if it is hallowed by blood spilt jointly on the battle field — represents a moral capital, which inspires us to overcome the obstacles that still stand in the way of the general reconciliation of nations. The Hungarians and the Bulgarians strive towards the achievement of this union with all their power. No people could have been happier than the Bulgarians, when the hour struck and justice was at last rendered to Hungary, who, like Bulgaria, was so shamefully mutilated by the peace treaties. The Crown of St. Stephen has now recovered some of the resplendent gems stolen from it, and we hope that it will soon *fully* recover its old splendour.

"The Bulgarians and Hungarians have been linked by history, and their fate urges them on to work together in the future too, even though there is no treaty of agreement between them. The feeling of friendship which the Bulgarian people feels for its Hungarian brethren is so strong that it does not need to be sealed by written agreements. Bulgaria and Hungary are united by the link of brotherhood, and the Hungarians have always expressed their sympathy for Bulgaria whenever Bulgaria was in need of help. The high distinction conferred on the King of Bulgaria again confirms this warm feeling of fraternity and strengthens the ties of friendship so often hallowed by blood; this friendship is no mere symbol; it has a practical meaning too."

## TAX COMMISSION IN ZOMBOR HAS NO HUNGARIAN MEMBER

Repeated reference has been made in these columns to one of the oldest grievances of the Hungarian minority in Yugoslavia, namely, its almost complete exclusion from the commissions. This illegal procedure has brought about an impossible state of affairs, the Hungarian tax payers being left entirely at the mercy of the authorities and in consequence constantly exposed to the danger of being compelled to pay abnormally high taxes as compared with the other taxpayers in the country. The same situation still prevails in the tax commission of the town of Zombor, which is just now actually sitting there being no Hungarian among its 14 members.

## RECTIFICATION

A number of foreign newspapers have during the current year, published some absolutely false data relating to schools of the Magyar minority in Yugoslavia, on the basis of allegedly official Yugoslav reports. These data were taken over by some of the Yugoslav newspapers, and even some Hungarian papers have published them, so that it is very important here to rectify these obviously false reports published with a view to misleading public opinion in other countries. The Yugoslav report states that the Magyar minority possesses altogether 621 elementary classes, i. e. taking four classes to each section, it has 155 sections in which under Article 9. of the Minority Treaty and § 45 of the Yugoslav Elementary Education Act the pupils are being educated in their mother-tongue, i. e. in Magyar. Let us refer, however, to the report submitted to the Skupshtina by Dr. Dragutin Koyitch, then Yugoslav Minister of Education, on March 1932, which speaks of the existence of 532 Magyar elementary classes, — i. e. 133 Magyar sections. M. Zhivotitch, Departmental Chief in the Yugoslav Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in 1931 spoke of 531 Magyar elementary classes, while the educational department of the Danube Banate mentions 528 Magyar classes in its report for the school year 1929—1930. Most of the official or semi-official Yugoslav reports ignore the fact that in the so-called "parallel Magyar sections" the majority of the subjects are being taught, not in the language of the children, but in the language of the State. This is the actual situation, and it is one of the principal grievances of the Magyar minority.