

# HOW MINORITIES LIVE

## RUMANIA

### MINORITY CLERGYMEN PERSECUTED

A hard sentence has been pronounced on Dr. John Vajda, Roman Catholic parish priest of Tenke. Dr. Vajda presented the school library with several uncut volumes, and was denounced to the military authorities for having done so. For it was stated that certain passages in the books were subversive and dangerous to the State. Dr. Vajda's case was tried by the Military Tribunal in Kolozsvár; and he was sentenced to one year's imprisonment. This sentence was quashed by the supreme military court and the case was referred for retrial to the Military Tribunal in Nagyszeben. The new trial lasted several days; finally the sentence pronounced by the Kolozsvár court was upheld. Dr. Vajda was sentenced to spend one year in gaol, and was immediately placed under arrest.

Years ago the Rev. John Balogh, Reformed Church pastor of Erszodoro (County Szilágy), married a Calvinist widow of the village to a Greek Catholic smith. The new couple undertook that any female offspring of their marriage should, according to the rules of the Church, follow the faith of their mother, but despite this undertaking their daughter was christened a Greek Catholic. Quite recently the wife wished to communicate, but the Rev. John Balogh refused to admit her to Communion because of this breach of Church rules. A few days later, Balogh was arrested by the gendarmes and conveyed to the military tribunal in Kolozsvár, where he was accused of having in his conversation with the woman used expressions insulting to the Rumanians. Mr. Balogh is still under arrest.

Mr. Anthony Simonffy, Roman Catholic parish priest of Csikdánfalva, has been prosecuted by the local gendarmes for holding a forbidden meeting. At the military court in Brassó it was proved that the priest had not been guilty of subversive conduct, all he had done was to discuss parochial affairs with some of his parishioners. He was acquitted of the charge brought against him.

Last December the military tribunal in Kolozsvár sentenced the Roman Catholic parish priest of Tűr, the Rev. Gaspar Lokoly, to two months' imprisonment, the suspension of his political rights for three years and a fine of 4000 lei, because of a picture which was found covered with a silk flag in his church. The picture was one of St. Stephen in the act of offering the crown of Hungary to the Virgin Mary, the country's

patron saint. Mr. Lokody's defence was that it was only lately he had been appointed parish priest of the village and that he had no knowledge of the picture. His defence was rejected. In spring the Supreme Court of Appeal ordered a retrial of his case. Meantime Mr. Lokody had had to begin serving his time. He had been an inmate of the gaol belonging to the military court in Kolozsvár for three months when his case was retried by the military tribunal in Nagyszeben. He was acquitted by this court and his sentence was revoked.

### INTOLERANT ATTITUDE TOWARDS MINORITIES

A meeting of the Szekler joint tenants (compossessorati) was held recently in Csikszenttamás. As stipulated by the law, the local provincial magistrate was in the chair. A violent dispute arose in connection with certain measures relating to the management of the estate. The Chairman ordered a division. While the votes were being cast, Stephen Bálint, a joint tenant from the village of Bács, expressed his dissatisfaction with the proceedings to the magistrate in Hungarian. He was arrested and brought before the military tribunal in Brassó.

Several farmers belonging to the village of Pir in County Szilágy were recently brought before the military court in Kolozsvár charged with having insulted the Rumanian nation. According to the prosecution, at the time of the mobilization last March the accused opposed the requisitioning of their horses and carts by the army, and gave expression to their dissatisfaction with the measures taken. The military court sentenced Sigismund Veres to seven, Sigismund Kulcsár to six, Paul and Imre Somogyi (two brothers) to six, Stephen Morvai to seven, Sigismund Pócsi and Alexander Erdélyi to six months' gaol and inflicted on each a fine of 2000 lei.

Dr. Emery Zubor, an Arad lawyer, has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment by the military tribunal at Temesvár on the charge of having in a letter used expressions dangerous to the State ("Keleti Ujság" May 22). Baroness Esther Vécsey, an old lady of 76, the owner of an estate in County Szatmár, last March (at the time of the Rumanian mobilization) wrote her brother in Hungary (Baron Nicholas Vécsey) a letter in which, according to the prosecution, she supplied him with certain information. Her letter was opened by the censor's office attached to the Nagyvárad Post Office, and proceedings were instituted.

At her trial the aged Baroness insisted that she had no intention of spying and had merely written to her brother the things she saw through her own window. Counsel for the defence pleaded that his client was innocent, and pointed out that she was too old to understand military affairs properly. The military

count sentenced the Baroness to pay a fine of 10.000 lei and 2000 lei costs.

## RESULTS OF THE RUMANIZATION OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

M. Eugen Bess, president of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Kolozsvár (Cluj), has stated that the Rumanizing movement introduced in business life has already led to very "encouraging" results. As an illustration of this statement he noted that the sale of tropical fruit had, until recently, been the monopoly of a large "foreign" firm in Nagyvárad (Oradea Mare). The firm has now been deprived of its monopoly. The cotton used for peasants' clothing was originally distributed by three minority firms, which have been now deprived of this privilege, the license having been given to Rumanian companies. Sixty per cent of the latest applications for the establishment of new firms have been submitted by Rumanians.

## HUNGARIAN THEATRICAL COMPANY NOT PERMITTED TO PLAY

Owing to the embargo imposed by the Rumanian authorities in Torda, no Hungarian theatrical company has been allowed to play in the town for a long time. Towards the middle of June a company, that of M. Károly Mihályi, was at last permitted to settle in the town, by permission of the Ministry of Education. — But after two performances, for unknown reasons they were not allowed to continue their work, in spite of the fact that they possessed a legal permit and the plays which they were going to act had been approved by the censor. ("Keleti Ujság", June 12.).

## MINORITY WORKERS IN KOLOZSVAR URGE DEFINITIVE SETTLEMENT OF LANGUAGE QUESTION OF THE USE OF LANGUAGE

A delegation of Hungarian minority workers have appeared before Dr. Tataru, Royal Commissar at Kolozsvár (Cluj), asking him for the definitive settlement of the use of languages in order to enable those Hungarian workmen who cannot speak Rumanian to communicate with the authorities in their own language.

### STATE GRANT TO TRANSYLVANIAN HUNGARIAN CHURCHES STILL DELAYED

The leaders of the Hungarian churches in Transylvania were assured by the Government that these churches would receive a State grant in the form of extraordinary credit. In spite of repeated promises, however, no State grant has so far been paid either to the minority schools or to the teachers and pastors.

### MILITARY EXPROPRIATION OF TERRITORY OF A VILLAGE IN BIHAR

By royal edict, 75 hectares have been expropriated out of the territory of the village of Biharfelegyháza. The village is situated about 10 miles from the Hungaro-Rumanian frontier. The owners of the expropriated land all have Hungarian names, such as Vértesi, Györi, Uri, Szlányi, etc. In addition, 50 hectares have been expropriated out of the territory of the village of Pravu Mihail.

## SLOVAKIA

### WHY NOT CALL POZSONY "POZSONY"?

Addressing a meeting of the town council on June 24th, Dr. Tibor Neumann, deputy commissioner of the Hungarian minority in Slovakia, raised the question whether the so-called "*Srobar Edict*" still made the use of the name "*Bratislava*" compulsory in municipal administration? For, it was found that in the German publications of the city the name Bratislava was replaced by the German name "Pressburg". On the same ground Dr. Neumann demanded that the Hungarian minority should also be allowed the *historical* Hungarian name "*Pozsony*" in its publications. The Government Commissioner made an evasive reply, stating that a resolution of this character had to be made by the Government, not by the town.

### NEW ARRESTS IN SLOVAKIA

The following arrests were reported from Igló on June the 13th: Rev. Szilárd Móhr and Rev. Ede Hönch, Lutheran pastors of Ménhárt and Iszákfalva respectively; M. Schloss, a farmer and the son of M. Simon, village teacher in Ménhárt; Rev. Káplár, Roman Catholic priest of Csetnek, and M. Jozsef Sax, the charge being alleged declarations against the State. It appears that Slovakia again wishes to strengthen her security by means of arrests and to suppress the feelings of the minorities



by force. The leaders of Slovakia seem to forget how bitterly they had to fight for the freedom of their country.

### PERSECUTION OF RUTHENES IN SLOVAKIA

The "Dilo", the newspaper of the Ukrainians living in Poland, published on June 15th a report on the persecutions of the 200.000 Ruthenes in Slovakia. The Ruthenian elementary schools have nearly all been closed by the Slovak authorities. The State grant formerly paid to the Ruthenian grammar school at Eperjes has been withdrawn under the pretext that the financial situation of the Slovak State does not make it possible to continue its payment. Those Ruthene leaders who protest against this attempt to Slovakize their brethren are taken to internment camps where they are brutally maltreated. Among them was M. Iván Peschak, formerly member of the Czechoslovak Parliament and member of the Ruthene National Council, who has however succeeded in escaping from the camp. Nor do they treat those Ruthene leaders better who — like M. Jikowsky and M. Spenig — had been propagating the annexation of Eperjes to Slovakia, in opposition to the late Government of Ruthenia.

### YUGOSLAVIA

#### PROMISE NOT FULFILLED

M. Imre Várady, the only senator representing 500.000 Magyars in Yugoslavia, some time ago appeared before M. Beshlitch, Minister of Agriculture, to discuss with him some of the most burning problems and grievances of the Magyar minority. Among other things, he mentioned the recent legal regulation concerning the restriction of buying and selling immovable property, to which the authorities in the Hungarian areas give such an arbitrary interpretation that they simply exclude all Yugoslav citizens of Magyar race from the privilege of buying land or other immovable property. This time too, as on other occasions, the Minister promised to redress the Hungarian grievances, but the result is the same as it has always been in the last two years: the promise still remains unfulfilled.