

## M. DE BÁRDOSSY'S ARTICLE: THE MAGYARS AND THE NON-MAGYAR NATIONALITIES

When on New Year's Day the first number of Vol. X of "*Láthatár*" was published, it contained an article by *M. Ladislas de Bárdossy*, Prime Minister of Hungary. Amongst other things that article contained the following passages:

"The political conceptions of the Magyars took shape on the broad, immense plains whence more than a thousand years ago our warlike horsemen came to the valley of the Danube. These broad and rich plains were inhabited by a self-reliant and courageous people unaffected by the hatred of strangers that always comes from weakness and fear. Mistrust, suspicion and fear of other races have always been foreign to the Magyars. *Strangers who approached them during their migrations were treated as guests: they enjoyed and were protected by the usages of hospitality.*

"Strong and enduring were the roots of that natural law which the Magyars brought with them from their ancient home. And from those roots sprang the advice given to his son concerning "strangers and newcomers" by our great state-building king St. Stephen: — "*I enjoin thee, my son, to give them nurture with good will and proper sustenance, that they may be happier to sojourn with thee than to live elsewhere.*"

"In St. Stephen's advice the self-reliant calm of a strong man accustomed to broad expanses of territory threw open the door to those who arrived as welcome workers, but also to those who were swept to the frontiers of the country by the tide of misfortune, peril and destruction. In the course of history the number of foreigners and newcomers who fled to and took refuge in the areas protected by the military strength of the Magyars where life was easier, grew ever larger. *That they were welcomed with kindness, that we gave them a share of our bread and extended our protection*

to them, was the natural outcome of the racial traits that have always shaped the political ideas of the Magyars.

"But the task thus undertaken was no light one. Historical events brought to this country many diverse racial elements of different mentalities and dispositions; and it was often very difficult to bring their forms of life into harmony with those of the Magyars. But there is always some method of reconciling the varying forms of life of different peoples by means of sincere words and sincere deeds.

*"The Magyars* — as we see from the teachings of all our great spiritual leaders — *have always recognized the right of every nationality to cherish and develop freely its own language, its own racial character and racial traits.* The work done by "Láthatár" for the past ten years is proof of this.

*"In keeping with the political traditions of a thousand years, we are guided by a spirit of understanding and not by one of hatred.* Today hatred is still foreign to us, although during the past twenty years we have learnt what it is to be a minority under alien rule. The bitter experiences of the past twenty-two years have taught us to judge the difference between the minority lot unjustly forced upon the Magyars and the conditions based on the law of hospitality in which the non-Magyar nationalities living by their own choice in Hungary dwell. Even this has not changed our point of view or our conduct. All that we insist on is that the possessions, profits and privileges illegally acquired — often with resort to violence — under an alien rule can never be the objects of minority protection.

"We are working to establish justice in Europe. For this we made such great sacrifices in the past. We shall continue on this path, and with Széchenyi we say: — *Let all the patriotic inhabitants of our country whom destiny, time and historical events have welded into one body, join hands in friendship . . . Let us settle the question of our natural rights as becomes men, with justice and moderation.*"