

# POLITICAL MOSAIC

## VITEZ STEPHEN DE HORTHY

The Hungarian nation has with unanimous enthusiasm chosen as Deputy Regent Stephen de Horthy, the son of the Regent. The moving solemnity of the ceremony of election showed a remarkable resemblance to the dignified atmosphere of that historic day on which the Hungarian people raised to the dignity of Regent one of the most glorious figures of Hungarian history and one of the greatest personalities known to that history — Nicholas de Horthy. This event is rendered unforgettable, however, not only by this similarity of externals, but also — and indeed chiefly — by the fact that on the present occasion too, as twenty-two years ago, the Hungarian nation once more stood united as one man in setting its seal amid constitutional forms to its unanimous will.

The background twenty-two years ago was one of collapse and destruction; and today a fresh and vigorous Hungary risen from her ashes: sublimely manifesting a strong will steeled in days of trial.

Twenty-two years ago Hungary was bleeding from a thousand wounds and writhing under the devastations and shameful insults of a communistic rabble-revolution and Rumanian depredation which crowned the horrors of the collapse of the Monarchy. And the political instinct of the Hungarian people found the leader sent by Providence who was the only man capable of raising from its state of apathetic lethargy the dismembered country which had been disfigured, plundered and trodden in the dust.

To Nicholas de Horthy is due the return of the Hungarian people's self-respect and self-consciousness, faith and will-power. It was he that consolidated the nation reduced to a state of lethargic stupor; it was he that led that nation back to the path of unconditional constitutionalism. It was his wise government that converted a country already regarded as doomed to extinction into a strong and hard-working country which has achieved surprising results. It was he that pointed the way leading to creative work and social progress, — that created the really excellent and strong Hungarian army. He has never lost sight of the mission of the Magyars in the Danube Basin or of their duty as heirs of the St. Stephen traditions. Nor has he ever made a secret of his conviction that to Hungary is due the leading rôle in the Danube Valley.

Thanks to his splendid government four sections of the territory stolen from Hungary have returned to the thousand-year-old kingdom, of which they form inalienable, inseparable parts; and this fact in itself is one of the sources of that uncompromising conviction that according to the eternal logic of reason, historical inevitability and history all the other legitimate demands of the Hungarian people are bound to be fulfilled.

This is in the interest, not of Hungary only, but of Europe generally. During the whole course of its history of a thousand years the Hungarian people has always had to bear the burden of a serious mission for the protection of Western Europe; and today also the Hungarian nation has a very important role to play in the struggle against Bolshevism. In the New Europe, therefore, the Hungarian people must be ensured a worthy place, — that place which it has so far claimed as exclusively its own in the Danube Valley.

It was the Hungarian people's ardent affection for and gratitude to the Regent that was reflected also in the spontaneous resolve to elect as Deputy Regent the Regent's son, an eminent scion of his family with qualities similar to his own who stands nearest to him and has been trained to act as his most fitting collaborator in his own family circle.

Stephen de Horthy is an engineer possessing eminent qualifications who has seen the world and has utilised the experience gained during his travels, with the aid of an exceptional power of organisation, to develop into one of the most up-to-date industrial establishments in Europe the wagon-factory of the Hungarian State Railways; he initiated the manufacture of aeroplanes in Hungary; and has rendered his country signal service by the re-organisation of the State Railways. He is a magnificent airman, his great feats as a flyer being known all over the world; at the same time he is a skilled constructor of aeroplanes. He is a highly cultured and strong-willed Magyar — in everything he does or thinks. He is the predestined upholder of the Horthy tradition, — the man who is most familiar with this tradition and best qualified to develop it. He is the exceptionally gifted son of an exceptionally gifted father.

## TWO SERBIAN MEMBERS OF HUNGARIAN HOUSE OF DEPUTIES TOUR SOUTHERN HUNGARY

On several occasions in recent years — most recently in our January issue — we have adverted to the decidedly anti-minority procedure of the former Yugoslav Governments in allotting to the *Magyar minority (500.000 souls) only one seat in the House of Deputies and only one seat on the Senate*. The Hungarian Government has not followed their example; but as

representatives of the Serbian ethnic group living in the Bácska region (143.000 souls = only 20.6% of the total population) *has invited to take seats in the House of Deputies of the Hungarian Parliament for the present 2 Serbian politicians.* Early in March these two Serbian Deputies — Milan L. Popovitch and Bogdan Dungserszki — visited the *Zsablya* and *Titel* hundreds for the purpose of properly enlightening, instructing and reassuring the inhabitants of those districts, who are mostly Serbs. Their first meeting was held at *Titel* in the assembly hall of the local Greek Oriental (Serbian) church community and was attended by many hundreds of Serbian farmers residing in the hundred of *Titel*. According to the "*Nova Pošta*", a Serbian paper appearing at Ujvidék, Deputy Milan L. Popovitch made a long speech in which he stressed above all that the Serbians of Hungary should as soon as possible and as sincerely as possible accommodate themselves to the new conditions and the new State order. He requested his fellow-Serbs in particular not to allow themselves to be led astray by suspicious elements with subversive intentions; for the latter made it their object to upset the mental equilibrium of the Serbian people by all kinds of sensational news and lies. The Serbian farmers had however never allowed themselves to be cajoled by unscrupulous individuals anxious to lead the Serbian people astray and to involve that people in the suspicion of being ready to neglect its duties towards State and society. Even today, when Hungary was at war and the whole world was in a travail of uncertainty, the Serbian people would prove able to preserve its peace of mind and to show that the self-conscious Serbian farming class regarded it as its chief interest that it should be able to safeguard its home, its welfare, its country and its Christian faith.

The audience listened with the greatest attention to the words of Deputy Popovitch and expressed its approval of the sentiments voiced by him.

After the meeting the Deputies asked the Serbian inhabitants to state their grievances and wishes, and promised to submit the same to the competent authorities for redress or fulfilment respectively.

From *Titel* the two Serbian Deputies went to *Zsablya* and *Csurog*, where, in the presence of several hundred persons, they explained the object of their mission. At the meetings held there Deputy Milan L. Popovitch *inter alia* made the following statements: — "The ancestors of the Serbian farmers set an example which must be followed; you must endeavour to provide *that our country shall receive from you, in this time of war, the best soldiers, and, in days of peace, the best tax-payers. We must all of us work to achieve that end. The power of our country, Hungary, is based upon the hard-working, industrious*

*and courageous farmer class, who must take their due share of the work of re-construction. For the performance of this work the Serbian people needs peace of mind and a rested body.*

"The Serbian people must however in these critical days take care to avoid everything inducing groundless unrest and keep aloof from all actions calculated to throw doubt on its loyalty to the State. It should not tolerate paid foreign propagandists or the London or Moscow radio to keep it in a state of constant mental tension or to incite it to commit sabotage and resist the authorities; for the insidious words of foreign hirelings might easily encourage the credulous people to indulge in foolish dreams such as have already brought much horrible suffering upon the Serbian nation. The continued existence and the future of the Serbian people alike imperatively demand that it should await the end of the war in peace and without spiritual upheaval. The greater the number of men — the greater the number of healthy races — that are left alive, the better for the future; and then after the war is over it will be all the easier for the Serbian people to adjust itself to the new situation as being a people which commands respect. That is the only way to avoid the Serbian people being overwhelmed and completely cut to pieces.

*"Our people, which in Hungary is fighting against communism, is defending, not only the country and the existing social order, but also its own property and its children. It is my firm conviction that our fellow-Serbs living in the Bácska will not be deceived by lying promises and will not tolerate the annihilation of its culture and the undermining of its economic development by senseless propaganda. The attitude it has so far displayed has ensured it a worthy place among the cultured peoples; and if in the future too it preserves this quality and its creative power, it will be allotted in the new European order the place due to its intrinsic value. That is why we have to defend the warm homes inherited from our fathers and to safeguard our fathers' faith, language and traditions. Let our lives continue to be guided by trust in God and in the authorities. We must remain true to our Church — the Church of St. Save — it we would preserve our own lives and those of our children and the future of our people."*

If the Serbs of the Bácska take to heart the serious, wise advice of Milan Popovitch given for the benefit of his racial brethren, there will be no more obstacle to their joining in the national work of re-construction, and the Magyars will in any case be delighted to welcome the co-operation of the Serbian people in the work of furthering the welfare of the common fatherland.

## CULTURAL EFFORTS OF MAGYARS OF SLOVAKIA

During the Czecho-Slovak era the Magyars of the northern counties wrested from Hungary created a large organization, the Magyar Cultural Society of Slovakia, which was destined to play a leading part in their cultural life. When independent Slovakia came into being, the Slovak Government refused to allow this minority organization to function. As this decision struck a blow at the very foundations of Magyar cultural life in Slovakia, the Magyars who remained there launched a campaign for the resurrection of their old organization; but it took them three years of hard work to obtain permission for that society to begin functioning again.

The reorganized Magyar Cultural Society of Slovakia held its first general meeting on 22nd February last. At this meeting *Count Michael Csáky*, the cultural leader of the Magyars of Slovakia, described the aims of the Society as follows:

"All strength is relative, and however strong a man may feel, there are tasks which he may not have the strength to perform unaided, but which may be accomplished if he is backed by the confidence and help of hundreds of his fellow-men. This help increases his strength, steels his will, and makes the accomplishment of the most difficult tasks possible. It is with the knowledge that I can rely on help of that kind that I now take the chair as President of the Society, and I promise, with your active help, to realize its aims.

"Our Society is about to enter on a new lease of life. I have before me its new statutes, which, however eloquently the aims of the Magyar Cultural Society of Slovakia are set forth in them, are so far merely a dead letter. To breathe life into them human work is required — our work, — and, therefore, I beg you to allow me to give you briefly an idea of what I consider our aims to be and of the means by which I propose to achieve them.

"Class distinctions are more marked among the Magyars than in the surrounding nations. This in itself would not matter much, were it not that certain classes of Hungarian society hold themselves rigidly aloof from the rest. This is illustrated by the fact that certain social classes have a certain intellectual level, a certain fixed educational standard, by which I mean that *the different classes usually attend different types of schools, and the moment they change their schools and reach a higher educational level, they move from one class of society into another.* In practice, therefore, the different classes of society as such never rise to a higher level, although that would be desirable.

"I have paid visits to the Magyar villages here in Slovakia, and the feelings with which I returned were contradictory. For

*although my soul rejoiced in the evidence of clear thinking, ability, skill, resourcefulness, thirst for knowledge and the desire for progress I found in them, and although I came back with the feeling that we have no reason to worry about the future and every reason to be proud of the Magyar race; on the other hand I had to see how neglected and uncared-for those villages are.*

"I also visited the Magyar towns and scattered Magyar settlements, and I saw with what tenacity Magyar labourers, craftsmen and tradesmen are struggling to earn their daily bread, and how they have to use up the last ounce of their energies to make good. I also saw that they have no time or energy left for self-education or to make proper provision for the bringing-up and education of their children. Yet if they were better educated, they would stand a much better chance of holding their own against competition.

"What is our task? Not to make the Magyars better Magyars. *We do not recognize the need for this.* Our task is to educate them to be more *efficient* all round. We Magyars set great store on being appreciated. As I see it, the task of the Magyar Cultural Society is to perform work that will result in the Magyars, both as individuals and as a nation, winning the respect and admiration of the whole world by their culture, their knowledge, their character, their work, and all that those things mean.

*"The Magyar Cultural Society of Slovakia is fighting with spiritual weapons, and its aim is to raise the intellectual level of the Magyar minority.* This implies the care of their souls, the strengthening of their characters and their morals, and the solution of their economic problems. For what should we gain by adding to their store of knowledge by means of lectures if we neglect the spiritual side of their education and forget that our work must always aim at strengthening character and raising the standard of public morals? And what will be the use of all our labour if the Magyars lack a secure economic basis? It would only be a futile effort, an iridescent bubble that vanishes in thin air.

"From the theoretical let me now turn to the practical. *It is our intention to deal systematically on the one hand with the villagers and on the other with the town-folk and the scattered Magyar populations. A whole year's programme of work will be drawn up at the beginning of every year, a separate programme for the villages and another for the towns.* I propose circulating pamphlets containing the programme of work for each season. Lecturers will be sent out from headquarters, but I shall also insist on local lecturers being trained for the work. We shall also devote attention to singing, to the establishment of choirs, which will receive the scores of

genuine Magyar folk-songs chosen systematically. I am well aware of the educative value of amateur theatricals, of the opportunities they afford of bringing out latent talent; and I shall see that they are directed from headquarters. Here there will be greater difficulties to overcome: the finding of suitable plays, the providing of properties, and so on, but I hope to be able to cope with these difficulties soon.

"I should very much like every branch of the Magyar Cultural Society to have its own local premises. In many places the difficulty is that there are no halls big enough for our purpose. This difficulty must be solved in time by the erection of concert halls. I intend seeing about libraries immediately, for in my opinion nothing yields such good results of an educational nature as do libraries. Unfortunately, we shall not be able to increase their number as quickly as I should like, for libraries are mainly a question of money; but we shall certainly make a beginning.

"We cannot begin to think of creating courses of instruction until the work of organization is finished and our resources can be reviewed, and until we are able to provide teachers and suitable premises.

*"We shall maintain intercourse with Magyars in every part of the country and make our links with them stronger by frequently visiting them.* The object of these visits will not merely be to surmount the difficulties of personal contact caused by geographical distances and bring the people closer together in spirit in order to create a feeling of unity and of a community of interests, but also to see how people in country places react to our efforts, to control and guide their steps and when necessary set new branches going.

"It would be easy to speak for hours of the things to be done and still leave much unsaid; for many of our tasks will emerge unexpectedly in the course of our work. I beg all of you, those present and those who have been prevented by distance or any other cause from being with us today, to do your share of this self-sacrificing and noble work as becomes honest Magyars, remembering that you are labouring for yourselves and for the future of the race.

*"I have set a high aim. I had to set it high that no one should ever lose sight of it.* To reach it we need the strength of steel, a tough will and the help of the Almighty. I know that strength is ours, I know that our wills are tough, and I believe that God will not deny His blessing to noble work of this kind. If we accomplish it, we may be proud to call ourselves Magyars."

## AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN BULGARIA

The great strides made by agriculture during the past few years have made the establishment of new agricultural institutes and schools necessary. *As early as the school-year 1936/37 there were 179 such schools with 12.843 pupils in Bulgaria. By 1940/41 the number had increased to 239 with 14.379 students.* In the course of the present school-year 8 more have been opened, 5 in Macedonia, 2 in Thrace and 1 in the Dobrudja. This means that in the course of the past 5 years the number of agricultural schools has increased by 31.8 per cent. Extra-school courses of instruction in practical agriculture provide for the training of the youth of Bulgaria. The number of these courses in 1941 was 220, or 47 more than in 1936, an increase of 29 per cent. During the past 5 years 59.164 boys and girls attended these courses, which are maintained by the Ministry of Agriculture. The political communities contribute towards their upkeep and the State issues interest-free loans for the building of new schools. In 1940, 13 villages received 900.000 levas for the erection of new school buildings. *In the first half of 1941, the Ministry of Agriculture issued credit to the value of 11.340.000 levas to 14 villages.*

The staffs of the agricultural schools do not confine their activity to teaching in them; they also help their pupils who have left school with practical advice and instruction on their own farms. Repetition courses and courses of practical added to theoretical instruction train the youth of Bulgaria to be skilled agriculturists. Girls are trained chiefly in domestic science and certain branches of agriculture.

The State also maintains agricultural secondary schools. Their number in 1940 was 4: —3 for boys and 1 for girls. *In 1941 a fifth was opened in Macedonia.*

The teaching staffs for the agricultural schools are trained in two State institutes. The Ministry of Agriculture is now elaborating a Bill the object of which is to extend the scope of agricultural education. Besides this it is working on a plan which if carried through will provide a further 200 million levas for the establishment of the agricultural schools still required. ("La Parole Bulgare", November 1.)