

## POLITICAL MOSAIC

"THIS PART OF EUROPE HAS ALWAYS BEEN  
HUNGARIAN"

At a meeting of the United Christian National League held in Budapest a series of lectures on national politics to which the title of "The Magyar soul keeps vigil" was given, were delivered. Among those present were *Premier Kállay* with other members of the Cabinet, the Speaker, *M. Andrew Nagy de Tasnád*, and many other men distinguished in Hungarian political and social life.

After an opening address by *M. Zoltán Biró*, a member of the Upper House, the Rev. Ladislas Ravasz, Bishop of the Reformed Church, delivered an interesting lecture on "Christian spirit — Magyar culture". In the course of this lecture he asserted that culture was always an affair of the community. What made a people a people was that a large number of them jointly undertook to perform some great cultural tasks. While thus engaged in creating a common culture their racial individuality emerged more and more palpably, and when this individuality took shape as an independent political entity, there stood the nation as a cultural unit. When a nation, consciously and of one accord, decided that its chief end, its Divine mission, was to make its civilization Christian in spirit, it had arrived at the most important decision. *This was what the Magyars did when they accepted St. Stephen's advice and grafted the Christian spirit on their civilization. Hungarian culture had its roots in the Christian spirit.*

Hungary never closed her doors to the discoveries, achievements, visions and results of the universal Christian spirit. This land had always been part of Christian Europe, *but the teachings and inspirations of the universal Christian spirit were always accepted so that first they became Magyar, for the influences that did not become Magyar never became a living part of this country's civilization.* This part of Europe had always been Hungarian, the country of the Magyars.

The Rev. *Chrisostom Kelemen*, Abbot of Pannonhalma, then delivered a lecture, which was listened to with the greatest interest, on the subject of "The Magyars' confession of faith." The private life and public activity of every Magyar statesman of note from St. Stephen to Stephen Széchenyi — he said — were characterized by a deep piety. Similarly the convictions and life-work of the great Magyar military leaders were charged

with a belief in the supernatural. Faith and prayer — he said — were necessary, but one must not take liberties with prayer. It was no use for a man to put his hand into the fire and pray to God that it should not be burned.

*Besides the confession of faith of the artists, the statesmen, the military leaders, there was also the creed of Hungarian life, of Hungarian morals.* Who could enumerate all the great Magyar men and women whose noble and pious lives were inscribed with letters of gold in the annals of Hungary's history? And speaking of outstanding instances of piety, should no mention be made of the Hungarian nation itself? Through centuries of storm often the only disciplinary force, the only source of moral strength and the only comfort of this nation was its faith. *There was a force in religion that preserved, stabilized and sanctified patriotism.* As one of the greatest Hungarian thinkers had put it: — "*Nation and religion are one profound community of feeling which constitutes the greatest historical strength of society.*" If we continued to possess that great historical strength in the future, God would be our ally. The nation of men who cast all their individual cares and troubles on the Lord, who lived, struggled and when necessary were ready to die for the public good, was everlasting and invincible.

M. Louis Littay, member of the Upper House, delivered a lecture on "*The Magyar spirit and Magyar national economy*". He threw light on the proper role of capital and said that *no real Magyar life was conceivable unless the individual was assured the possibility of a free assertion of self, but at the same time everybody must feel it his sacred duty to give his services to further the aims of the great Magyar community.*

M. Gabriel Vladár, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, delivered a lecture on "*The Magyar spirit and Magyar law.*" The historical fact — he said amongst other things — that the Magyars, wedged in between East and West, living without kindred among alien races, often nearly swamped by the rising waves of two, sometimes three, racial oceans and exposed to the armed attacks as well as the peaceful attempts at assimilation of their powerful neighbours bent on expansion, had continued to live for a thousand years, was sufficient proof that their use of the material at hand to build up the future, their careful selection of foreign ideas, their tendency to wrap their cloaks more tightly round them and set their hats more firmly on their heads at the approach of a storm, *the commonsense which made them choose slow evolution rather than ignite the risky fires of revolution, were not a sign of backwardness, but a manifestation of their state-creating and state-maintaining genius.*

And the historical fact that after a thousand years of storm and strife the Hungarian language was heard in thousands

of villages and hundreds of towns, eloquently proved that the Magyar state-creating and state-maintaining genius was a living reality.

In his concluding speech M. *Zoltán Biró* declared that we had every reason to be confident, for in the most critical times Divine Providence had always given to the nation a leader of our own blood. *There was no justification for pessimism and despondency.*

## HUNGARY ON THE PATH OF SOCIAL PROGRESS

In his speech closing the appropriation debate Premier Kállay manifestly took great pains to underline the work done by Hungary in the field of social progress during the past twenty years.

"We have every reason", said the Premier, "to be proud of Hungary's special social policy, and can safely boast of its results."

A rather bulky publication entitled "*Hungary on the Path of Social Progress*" contains a summary of all the important social laws passed and the results achieved in the field of social policy during the past twenty years.

Dealing with measures of a general nature, this publication mentions that since 1918 *the salaries of public officials have been repeatedly raised*, the rise being larger proportionately where the salaries were smaller. The great importance attached to the family is shown by the circumstance that, while in 1918 a minor official in the XI category received an allowance corresponding to 10% of his salary for each member of his family, today he receives 30% each for his wife and first child, 5% for his third child and 7% and 8% for the fourth and fifth child respectively. Health services for the benefit of public employees were greatly extended in 1934, so that now in 3400 villages they enjoy free medical treatment. Their pensions have also been gradually raised.

In the years following Trianon social work among the youth was necessarily extremely restricted. Later on it became possible to help them institutionally. The extent of the measures taken to ensure an adequate number of educated young people may be gathered from the fact that, *while in 1924 the sum spent by the educational administration on social welfare work among students was 149.500 pengő, in 1942 it was 3.500.000.* The figures illustrating the results achieved in the sphere of popular education are strikingly eloquent. The proportion of illiterates in Trianon Hungary in 1926 was 15.2%, in 1930 9.6%, and in 1941 only 4%.

In the field of social insurance the most comprehensive measures were taken during the past twenty years. The services



rendered by the social insurance organizations are in many respects ahead of the general European standard.

Social points of view also play their part in the Hungarian taxation system. The Hungarian income tax is one of the most progressive in the whole of Europe; and the laws governing the manner of collection afford ample protection to the individual. *Credits, loans to public officials, aid to the flooded areas, employment for demobilized agricultural labourers, provision for refugees, aid to people who lost their money in war loans, the social work done by the churches and societies, Levente (a youth society) work, and — what should perhaps have been mentioned first — the building of houses by the General Family Protection Foundation, are all manifestations of the social work being done by the Government and the nation.*

The results of a socio-political nature accomplished in the sphere of agriculture are also noteworthy. *Thanks to the Government's policy, 1,400,000 cadastral yokes have been allotted, and a further 456,700 parcelled out by private individuals.* The number of small-holdings is growing steadily and rapidly.

Immediately after the first Great War several laws for the protection of agricultural labourers were passed. A beginning was made with an institutional regulation of agricultural wages, the procedure to be followed in labour lawsuits was determined, and a modern institution regulating wages in every branch of labour was established. Thanks to the new labour exchange methods, in 1940 and 1941 100,000 and 164,000 labourers respectively found employment.

Two years ago an institution was established which, not only because of its extent, but also because of its peculiarly Hungarian character, deserves special attention. This is the General Family Protection Foundation, which *in those two short years has achieved magnificent results.* Its aims are to raise the economic, cultural and moral level of the poor agricultural classes and to encourage large families. *With the aid of the Foundation 5410 roomy, healthy houses have been built. Besides this, 194 large families have been enabled to buy houses and 2169 have had their houses repaired and improved. After the war it is proposed to build 200,000 such family houses.*

After the collapse in 1918 the social protection of industrial workers had to be reorganized. At the beginning of the twenties laws were passed regulating the questions of apprentices, night labour, and the protection of women and children. The year 1935 brought important changes. From that year on comprehensive measures were taken to ensure the social and material welfare of the working classes. It was at this time that working hours were reduced, a minimum wage fixed, paid holidays introduced, the system of children's allowances introduced, and

the questions of giving notice and commutation regulated. Thanks to the new scale of wages the average earnings and buying power of the working classes has grown from year to year. Last year the nationalization of labour bureaus was begun, and the question of holidays is now being organized.

In conclusion it may be of interest to compare Hungary's social policy with that of the former "Succession States". Czechoslovakia had well-developed social institutions, but was not able to solve the problem of unemployment. *The Czech Land Reform did not give any land to the Magyar agrarian labourers, but by doing away with the large estates it deprived them of their employment. The standard of life of the national minorities was forcibly reduced to a minimum. In the last year of the Rumanian era the town of Nagyvárad spent 25.000 pengő on social welfare, while in the first year after the restoration of the town to Hungary the Hungarian Government spent 375.000 for that purpose.* In other words, 74 times as much was spent in Nagyvárad on social welfare in one year as in the same time during the Rumanian era. In many cases the pensions paid according to the Hungarian laws were 200% more than those paid by the Rumanians.

#### BRIDGE OVER DANUBE AT MEDVE OPENED IN PRESENCE OF REGENT OF HUNGARY

On March 13th. the new bridge over the Danube at Medve connecting the "Csallóköz" district with Trans-Danubia, was ceremoniously opened. In the autumn of 1938, when parts of Upper Hungary were re-incorporated in the mother-country, the Hungarian National Defence troops first entered the Hungarian territory then restored over a pontoon bridge built for the occasion at *Medve*. It was in memory of this historical day of bloodless triumph that in May, 1939, Count Paul Teleki, Prime Minister of Hungary, decided on *the construction of two bridges over the Danube in the "Csallóköz" district, the first to be built at Medve.* When the work of building the new, up-to-date Danube bridge was begun, a Great War was raging; but it has nevertheless been completed. Apart from its being a historical monument, the bridge at Medve possesses also an economic importance. This bridge connects two regions in many respects of a contrasting character which in the distant past too were widely separated from one another. One of these regions is *the Győr industrial district of Trans-Danubia*, the other *the rich agrarian area of the "Csallóköz"*. It was in the "Csallóköz" district that the Magyars occupying the country a thousand years ago established their first farmstead settlements. The rich pastures, the large number of meres and the islands covered with marsh oak forests veritably lured the Magyars to

come to this district for the purpose of being able to engage to their hearts' content in their ancestral pursuit of agriculture. *And now, by way of the new bridge, this quiet region is to be invigorated by the brisk bustle of the industrial district on the other side of the river.*

For centuries the "Csallóköz" district lived a separate social and ethnic life of its own; it was in this district that the ancient Magyar popular customs, folk-songs and folktales remained longest in vogue. As a result of the activity of dike companies and the construction of a network of dikes for protection against floods this fairy region began to change its character. In areas once the haunts of rare birds of exceptional beauty and of rare fish, wheat is now waving in the wind. There has been a complete change in the ancient conditions of life formerly prevailing in the "Csallóköz"; and that region has had to gravitate towards new towns and a new district. Distances are being shortened, new connections established; and the Danube no longer isolates the agrarian life of the "Csallóköz" from the industrial region on the right bank of the river. Two distinct regions — two distinct branches of economy — are now joining hands over the iron structure spanning the old river. The bridge over the Danube at Medve built on the highway of the armies of yore opens up incalculable opportunities for the industrious, fine Magyar people living in the "Csallóköz".

That people appeared in large numbers to celebrate the inauguration of the bridge. Lining up on either side of the highroad 15 kilometres in length leading from Győr to the bridge, they stood from the early hours of the morning waving handkerchiefs and cheering the passengers travelling by car to the inauguration. There were many thousands of local inhabitants lining either bank of the river. The whole district was anxious to be present at the ceremony. At the entrance to the bridge the Regent was received by Dr. Varga, Minister for Commerce and Industry, and by the local authorities, who escorted the Head of the State to the dais amid the vociferous cheering of the assembled spectators.

Dr. Joseph Varga, Minister of Commerce and Industry, addressed the Regent.

"The new order of the world is in travail," he said, "while on the highway of the armies of old hundreds of bridges are falling into rivers, bent girders and broken pillars and ruined structures blocking the connection between the two shores. Traffic and the life-giving pulsation of nations and continents shrink in dismay from the path of destruction of the war. While this bridge was being built, in the southern part of our country the ruined wooden, steel and stone fragments of bridges that had been demolished had to be removed; while engaged in building this bridge we had to restore a whole series



of bridges in other areas. And *nevertheless we have succeeded in completing this monumental structure, the latest achievement of Hungarian engineering, — one more landmark proclaiming the creative character of Your Highness's government of our country.*"

After this speech, which was received with a burst of enthusiastic cheering, M. Charles Rázgha, Member of the Upper House of the Hungarian Parliament, delivered an address in his capacity as delegate of the re-incorporated district of "Csallóköz". The Regent entered into conversation with the engineers, foremen and workers gathered at the bridge-head. He asked for detailed information respecting the planning of the bridge, the whole course of the building and the difficulties that had to be overcome. He had a kindly word for every one and shook hands with all. After a long conversation with the workers, he led the way across the bridge.

#### PRESIDENT RYTI'S FLATTERING MESSAGE TO HUNGARIAN PEOPLE

On March 6th. M. Ryti, President of the Finnish Republic, entertained the Helsinki representatives of the Foreign Press. Dr. Edwin Linkomies, Prime Minister of Finland, was also present at the reception.

President Ryti in the course of an informal conversation, made the following statement to the Helsinki Correspondent of the *Hungarian Telegraph Bureau*: —

*"I am delighted to hear that Hungarian public opinion showed such deep interest in the latest political developments in Finland. We Finns have for long been attached to Hungary by ties of a well-trying friendship, — ties which are becoming constantly stronger. We regard the Magyar nation as our close kinsmen — a nation which is at the same time one of the great — or rather great medium-sized — nations of Europe. Besides the Magyars, in Europe only the Esthonians are linked to us by ties of racial kinship. Premier Linkomies"* — said the President of the Republic of Finland — *"returned only recently from Hungary, as I understand, with exceptionally good impressions".*

In Hungary the extremely flattering words of the eminent President of the Finnish Republic have been received with universal gratification. *The Magyar people has always been proud of its relationship with the splendid Finnish people, a nation rich in heroic virtues and possessing a high standard of culture which shines in the same racial qualities — an unselfish worship of liberty and independence, a sense of justice and a heroic resolution which has made it ever ready to defend its national existence at any cost and to shed its blood in struggles in which, apart from its own independence and rights,*

*the general paramount human interests of Europe have been at stake.* These two peoples display an identity of conception and perseverance; but unfortunately — apart from the similar features of character resulting from their racial kinship — these two peoples have at all times shared an identity of destiny too calling upon them to make unparalleled sacrifices unceasingly in their struggle for existence, for their national honour and national interests, which have at all times been also the interests of European culture and of that Continent's very existence too. For centuries Finland lived under the yoke of foreign oppression, while Hungary has always lived the life of an independent State, — the Finnish kinsmen of the Magyars in the upper and the Magyar brethren in the lower central part of our Continent — as the strong bastions of defence of the West against the savage forces attempting to advance from the East. The situation today is the same!

In their faith in a common victory, in the welter of blood of a common struggle, the Magyars are inspired to a proud self-consciousness by the exceptionally appreciative words of the great son of the worthy people of kindred race to which they are so deeply attached.

#### UNIVERSITY STUDENTS PUBLISH A MAGAZINE IN THE FINNISH LANGUAGE TO STRENGTHEN THE FINNO-MAGYAR FRIENDSHIP

The committee of the *Magyar National Students' Association* was re-formed a year ago with *Alexander Cserhalmi* as president. In the various departments a brisk and pulsating life soon began. In the Finnish department a turning-point was marked by the return from Finland of its leader. His report of the warm welcome accorded to him in Finland and of the kindness with which, as a Magyar, he was treated, was responsible for the impulse that decided the students to give expression to the affection and brotherly sympathy felt by the Magyar nation for the Finnish people.

They determined to celebrate a Finnish Day with due ceremony on 18th February, and, to show their brotherly sympathy for the Finnish people, *the Magyar university students resolved to publish a magazine in the Finnish language giving expression thereto.*

The "Hungaria", a university periodical, contains a series of articles on the life, work and heroic struggles of the Finnish people.

On the front page there are photographs of the Regent of Hungary and *M. Risto Ryti*, President of the Finnish Republic. In the introductory article *Premier Kállay* extends his hands in friendship to the Finnish nation. Parallel with his introduction



there is a recommendation by *M. Aarna Wuorima*, Finnish Minister. Other articles are by *M. Eugene Szinyei-Merse*, Hungarian Minister of Education, on the "Finno-Magyar kinship", by *vitéz General Aloysius Béldy*, general leader of the youth, on "National Defence training of youth", by *vitéz General Francis Farkas de Kisbarnak*, on "The Hungarian Boy Scouts", by *Dr. Anthony Ullein-Reviczky*, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, Press Chief, on "Press contacts between Finland and Hungary", by *Dr. Victor Mihailich*, Rector Magnificus of the Technical University, on "The Achievements of Magyar Engineers", by *Dr. Géza Paikert*, Ministerial Councillor, on "The Finnish Example" and *Dr. vitéz Ivan Nagy*, on "Where the Magyars live throughout the world."

The magazine also contains interesting articles by *Dr. Stephen Csekey*, professor in Kolozsvár University, on "The theory of Ugro-Finnish national relationship", by *Dr. Alexander Imre*, also a university professor, on "The future of youth" and by *M. Denis Tömböly*, engineer, and member of the Hungarian Parliament, on "Magyar volunteers in the Finnish War of Independence." *M. Emery Rajczy* wrote an article on "Finnish youth — Magyar Youth", *Dr. William Neuráth*, assistant professor at the Technical University, gave a description of the youth organization of the Magyar engineering faculty. *M. Alexander Cserhalmi's* article was entitled "Hungary's historical mission". *M. Viljo Tervonen* and *M. Vienno Silvenionen*, Finnish bursary students, wrote about their experiences in Hungary and *M. vitéz Ladislav Lovas*, president of the Finnish department, gave an account of the department's work.

The magazine was translated into Finnish by *M. Viljo Tervonen*. It was edited by *M. Coloman Visegrády*, who in conclusion wrote an article about the aims and objects of the magazine.

The magazine does credit to the unselfish efforts of the Magyar university students.

## SERB LEADERS IN UJVIDEK SOLEMNLY DECLARE THEIR DESIRE FOR COOPERATION

On 4th March a delegation of Serb leaders from Ujvidek paid their respects to *Dr. Leo Deák* on the occasion of his appointment as High Sheriff of the town. All the political parties and factions that had played a part in the political life of the town during the Serb era were represented in the delegation. Among the members of the delegation, which was led by *M. Milán L. Popovitch*, M. P., were *M. Dáka Popovitch*, engineer, former Minister and Ban, *Dr. Bránko Ilitch*, former Lord Mayor and Senator, *Dr. Milán Szekulitch*, former Member of the Skupshtina and president of the Chamber of Notaries Public,

*M. Theodore Militch*, parish priest, *Dr. Milosh Petrovitch*, one-time Lord Mayor, *Dr. Pobrád Milutinovitch*, former Deputy Lord Mayor, *Dr. Branko Nikolitch*, former Member of the Skupshtina, *Dr. Radoslav Ilitch*, president of the Serb National Theatre, *M. Koszta Miroslavlyevitch*, former president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and one-time Lord Mayor, *M. Jovan Tyulum*, also former president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and president of the Greek Oriental Serb parish, council, *M. Nika Novâkovitch*, a merchant, *M. Stanoje Silitch*, a tradesman and president of the Ujvidék Industrial co-operative, *M. Milan Szabotin*, president of the Serb industrial youth organization, and *M. Glisa Bâjitch*, a farmer and president of the Serb Peasants' church choir.

In his complimentary address M. Milán Popovitch, amongst other things, said: —

“When Your Honour looks at the faces of those present before you, it will be clear to your excellent powers of observation that they are more cheerful than they used to be. This is the outward reflection of the present situation. And if you look deeper into our hearts, you will find them filled with a desire for spiritual healing. It was this frame of mind that led us to come to Your Honour as to one of ourselves and not to a stranger. Hitherto you have always consistently and honourably followed the path of reconciliation, goodwill, tolerance and Christian public spirit. For many years we have watched Your Honour's political activities. We watched them at a time when world events separated you from your own country and you were forced to suffer and struggle as a member of a minority. If in the past we Serbs had been asked who was the embodiment of the organized struggle of the Magyars of Southern Hungary, we should without doubt have answered: Leo Deák

“But we do not wish now to speak of subjective feelings. The statement I have just made is of objective and subjective importance to us, because it shows that you are well acquainted with the ramifications of the nationality question, not only in theory, but also in practice, and that you have a perfectly objective view of it. The activities of certain people in this sphere have been entirely fruitless.

“The most important things are *understanding and good-will, and the capacity to imagine oneself in the situation and frame of mind of the nationalities. Without them there can be no reconciliation, no bridging of the gulf, no soothing of offended dignity, and no co-operation.* We believe that Your Honour not only promise to find, but will really find ways and means of coming to terms with the nationalities . . .

“*We have been seeking a path that would lead to co-operation and mutual agreement and maintain that spirit between us.*

The path towards those great goals has led us to Your Honour. It has not been an easy or a smooth path.

*"We must return to the spirit of Francis Deák, Joseph Eötvös, Stephen Széchenyi and Louis Mocsáry. We must revive their ideas among the Magyars and Serbs, in public opinion and in the State administration, and undertake the heaviest burden a man can undertake: responsibility for the future. This will be the greatest and most lasting memorial to Your Honour's term of office as High Sheriff."*

Dr. Leo Deák shook hands warmly with the speaker and replied in the following words: —

"I thank you for the confidence expressed in me, not only in words, but also in deeds, by the words addressed to me by my friend M. Popovitch, and by the fact that as the representatives of the Serbs of Ujvidék you have come to congratulate me. *We Magyars and Serbs must base the present and the future on the past.* For if we recall the past, we shall see that *there is nothing to prevent co-operation.* The two nations were always able to understand one another and this has found expression in our legislation.

"In terms of the written laws and of human rights the Government wishes to give equal rights of citizenship to all the nationalities and will do so. But I beg you, gentlemen, to help me in my work. It will be successful only if all the people of the Bácska, irrespective of nationality and class, lend me their assistance.

"For this reason I beg you to co-operate with me to secure the assistance of the other side. *For my part, I shall do all I can to bring about an agreement.*

"I shall not give you a special programme. You have all seen my work. That is my programme and I refuse to deviate from it. That I am High Sheriff is not of such great importance to me. I shall make no discrimination between race and race. My door will always be open to everybody, and I shall listen to and redress all justifiable complaints.

"In conclusion I would remind you that we are at war, engaged in a war that has mobilized forces hitherto unknown in the history of the world. *If during the past thousand years historical necessity often placed the Magyars and the Serbs side by side, it was never so greatly called for as today.* You may take it from me that from today on we shall begin a life of harmony which must be built up by the joint efforts of Magyars and Serbs."

Dr. Deák's speech was received with loud cheers by the leaders of the Serbs.



## MEETING OF FARMERS IN THE BÁCSKA

For the first time since that area was restored to Hungary the farmers of the Bácska met in November at Ujvidék to discuss all the urgent problems of Hungarian agriculture. About six hundred delegations from County Bács-Bodrog and the adjoining counties took part in this assembly. A particularly interesting and arresting spectacle was afforded by the delegation sent by the Szekler settlers from Bukovina who had been repatriated last year and had now come for the first time to meet the rest of the Bácska farmers.

In his address of welcome M. Nicholas Nagy, Lord Mayor of Ujvidék, said they had come to seek ways and means of serving the country's interests. *County Bács-Bodrog would have to reorganize agricultural production in a manner in keeping with the Magyar style of life and in accordance with the requirements of the Magyar future.* M. Michael Máriaassy, President of the Agricultural Chamber in the areas between the Danube and the Tisza, called upon the farmers to make sacrifices for national aims. M. Charles Báranyos, State Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, stressed the point that *it was absolutely necessary to organize production, because in the last 23 years it had fallen off greatly in those parts.* This year four hundred winter agricultural courses were to be opened in the country, and every village was to have an agricultural adviser. It was intended to decentralize agricultural administration and, following methods that had proved a success, an agricultural directorate was to be set up in every county.

Then the State Secretary made the following remarks about the once world-famous Bácska wheat:

"Thirty years ago Bácska together with County Békés was the biggest granary of bread cereals in Hungary. At that time from 30 to 35 per cent of Bácska's wheat was graded A. 1., and was used for seed; the rest was B. grade, which was the standard required in the international markets. Now, while the Békés wheat is still of the same high grade quality, only one half per cent of the Bácska wheat is A. grade, 80 per cent is B., and the rest C., which cannot be sold in the international markets at all.

"The most urgent task is to put a stop to this decline in quality, so that after the war Bácska wheat shall again be able to compete in the foreign markets."

The State Secretary also stated that *of the 181.000 yokes at the Government's disposal the half had already been allotted. The rest would be allotted in 1943. In Zenta it was proposed to build a huge granary, Ujvidék, Horgos and Csikéria were to have fruit-packing warehouses, Ujvidék was to be the centre of vegetable production and in Horgos a paprika mill and*

*drying apparatus were to be set up.* The production of medicinal herbs would also be encouraged. At Óbecse, Temerin and Topolya agricultural schools, at Ujvidék and Szabadka domestic science schools, were to be opened. It was also proposed to open a technical school of agricultural industry, but whether it would be a secondary or a high grade school had not been decided yet. Very soon the work of widening the Francis Joseph Canal would begin, along with other works of a similar nature.

Before the close of the meeting the flag presented by Ujvidék to the local agricultural school was consecrated.

## HUNGARIAN EFFORTS TO RAISE THE CULTURAL LEVEL OF THE RUTHENIANS

It is four years since the ancient Carpathian frontier of Hungary was restored. After its restoration the Hungarian Government discovered that something must be done about the Ruthenians, who had been totally neglected by the Czechs during the Czecho-Slovak era. The first thing to be done was to set up an institution to study the problem. At the suggestion of M. *Nicholas Kozma*, the then Regent's Commissioner for Subcarpathia, the Scientific Society of Subcarpathia was formed in Ungvár. Its work was to make a close study of that region and its people, and collect statistics about the geographical, ethnographical and historical features of that part of Hungary, as well as data about its language, literature, art and so on.

The Scientific Society of Subcarpathia spreads knowledge by means of its various publications. Each of these publications contains friendly advice and useful information; all of them teach and entertain. In his report *Dr. John Harajda*, acting-director of the Society, said that *the intelligentsia had various means and possibilities of acquiring a knowledge of the latest developments in science and technical progress, but the common people were dependent for their information on newspapers and other reading matter.* Most of the books published during the Czech era were written in what to the Ruthenians was a foreign language. This state of matters continued until the Society was formed. *Dr. Harajda* pointed out that *if the people were to read what was given to them it must be written in their own tongue; the Ruthenians of Subcarpathia must receive publications written in the Ruthenian language.* It was this consideration that induced the Society to issue numerous publications in that language. The first of those was a Ruthenian grammar. A Popular Library series for the common people and the young had also been started. Hitherto about one book had been

published every month, with such signal success that each publication was eagerly awaited by the people. Some of them were bought up so quickly that a second edition had to be published and is now sold out. Most of these little books are about great Hungarians written from a Hungarian point of view, about Széchenyi, Horthy, etc.; *other contain unadulterated collections of the folksongs and folklore of Subcarpathia. In the past their oppressors took no notice of the fact that the Ruthenians have traditions and customs of their own; on the contrary they tried to suppress them. The Society also provides publications dealing with topical subjects and containing useful information. Particularly effective were the pamphlets dealing with cattle-breeding and agriculture, the two chief occupations of the Ruthenians. With the support of the Chamber of Agriculture an agricultural calendar was published, 9000 copies of which were sold. This number is large if we consider that various other societies and publishers were selling similar calendars. The Society does not confine its work of spreading useful information to the publishing of books and pamphlets; it also publishes newspapers and periodicals. One of the latter is a scientific journal called "Zorja" (Dawn), which contains articles of a higher level than those suitable for the columns of the daily press. Its aim is to further the consolidation of the relations between the Magyars and the Ruthenians. For the common people there is a magazine called "Literatura Negyilya", which contains tales, short stories, and poems. Its readers for the most part are the common people and minor officials. It is published twice a month. Another magazine that enjoys a wide circulation is a monthly periodical for the youth entitled "Rujszka Molgezsz".*

#### PUBLIC EDUCATION IN BULGARIA.

In the school-year 1940—1941 there were in Bulgaria 8541 schools with 36.154 teachers and 1.22.131 pupils. These figures are eloquent proof of the cultural progress made by the *metamorphosis of the Bulgarian people and lead to their regeneration in every sphere of life.* This rapid progress shows that Bulgaria has taken her place among the cultural nations of the world, and as such is first in rank in the Balkans. Now, and in the future too, Bulgaria will play a leading rôle among the peoples, which is the secret of that young nation's development.

According to official statistics, in the last schoolyear there 1940—1941 the number of pupils attending the last class of the were in Bulgaria 254 infant schools (161 being private schools)



attended the last elementary class in private schools, the total number for the year 1940—19'1 was 116.076.

The number of so-called „pre-grammar schools“ (resembling board schools) was 2123 (52 of them private) with 287.284 pupils and 7960 teachers. In 1941—1942, 68.336 pupils attended the last class of those schools, 42.642 being boys and 25.694 girls.

The number of grammar schools was (20 of them private) with 88.791 pupils and 3252 teachers. In 1940—1941 10.068 pupils — 6048 boys and 4020 girls — obtained leaving certificates.

The number of professional schools was 14 (8 private) with 12.626 pupils and 124 teachers. These schools were: a school of midwifery, four Greek Catholic denominational schools, four Mohammedan denominational schools, a school for army surgeons, two training colleges for pre-grammar school teachers, one advanced' teachers' training college and one school of music.

The number of technical schools was 420 (70 private) with 50.699 pupils and 2638 teachers. The number of pupils to obtain leaving certificates in these schools in 1940—1941 was 13.314 — 7602 boys and 5712 girls. These technical schools were as follow: 20 commercial, 2 mechanical, 168 industrial and 250 agricultural schools.

Besides all these Bulgaria has also one college of economics, one model institue of pedagogy and a school for telegraph and telephone operators. The number of pupils attending these schools was 895, the number of teachers 77. In 1940—1941, 391 students received diplomas.

The number of universities and colleges of university status and 586 professors. They were as follows: the *Sofia University* with 8614 students (6360 male and 2254 female students). 865 students received diplomas in 1940—1941. A *State university* with 2043 students. Here 70 diplomas were granted in 1940—1941. An *Academy of Fine Arts* with 153 students, 23 of whom received diplomas in 1940—1941. An *Academy of Music* with 280 students, 45 of whom received diplomas in 19'0—1941: and A *Royal Military Academy*, statistics relating to which are not available.

There are five institutes for physically defective children with 63 teachers and 395 pupils. Three of them are for deaf-and-dumb children, one for the blind and one for children of feeble mind. In 1940—1941, 23 pupils obtained leaving certificates in those schools.

In Bulgaria there is one school to every 7919 inhabitants, one teacher to every 200 inhabitants, and one pupil to every 6. The proportion of the population attending school is 16.86%.