

THE CAMPAIGN

OF THE PRO HUNGARIAN GROUP IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS FOR JUSTICE FOR HUNGARY

Sir Robert Gower and other Members of the House of Commons, in their recent open letters to the editors of the "Manchester Guardian" and the "Times" entered the lists once more for Hungary's justice and the revision of the Trianon Treaty. In the name of every son of the Hungarian Nation we express our profound gratitude to these distinguished members of the British nation for their noble attitude, and we believe that we do right if, for the information of every section of the public, we publish their indisputable arguments.

In a leading article which you published on June 21 you state:

"The lack of measure which Count Bethlen and other Magyar propagandists have of late displayed has done a double disservice to the cause of peace and to the hopes of reasonable Magyars. Extravagant claims which in effect assert the imprescriptible right of Magyar magnates over millions of Slav and Roumanian peasants have brought the only answer they could bring—a flat refusal from the Roumanian Foreign Minister, Titulescu"

The "Manchester Guardian" has always been so fair in its policy on international matters and it has rendered such great service to the cause of world peace that we are sure it will welcome a statement from us that the information — being as it is a part of the Little Entente States' propaganda against Hungary's claim for treaty revision — upon which it based its statement is quite wrong.

The Hungarian claim, as emphasised by Count Bethlen when he addressed a meeting in this House, is that Hungary shall have restored to it those districts which have a predominantly Magyar population and are adjacent to her present frontiers. As regards other territories wrested from her, and which have mixed populations, Hungary asks that the principle of self-determination — to be ascertained by plebiscites — shall apply. In our judgment, this demand is not "extravagant" but essentially reasonable.

We are seriously concerned at the situation which exists in the Middle Danube Basin. It is in a highly inflammable state, and a match applied to the tinder might result at any moment in an outbreak, leading to a world conflagration with disastrous results to civilisation. We are convinced that the reconstruction of that part of Europe enacted by the Treaty of Trianon is "unscientific", unnatural, and uneconomic; there can be no doubt that frontier revision is necessary and essential. The existence of an unnatural order in the relationship between neighbouring peoples must necessarily produce a situation which renders security impossible and an ultimate outbreak of war inevitable.

In most of the Little Entente States the ruling races have found it necessary to establish dictatorships, and it is not

without significance that the Croats, the Slovaks, and the Ruthenians support the Hungarian claim for treaty revision as promising the only means for their deliverance.

What we urge is that the problem is essentially one for impartial consideration by the League of Nations under Article 19 of the Covenant. The subjecting of the question to a meticulously fair examination by an impartial tribunal, before which all parties are represented, could not fail to be productive of good. We are satisfied what the result of the inquiry would be and that, following a just and equitable revision of the territorial provisions of the Treaty of Trianon, a new era of prosperity would open out for an important part of Europe where chaos now reigns.

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May we express our regret at the statement made recently at Bucharest by M. Barthou on the question of frontier revision which is referred to in your leading article to-day?

We are convinced that the rectification of the frontiers created by the Treaty of Trianon is inevitable. The economic and political chaos which prevails in the Middle Danube Basin constitutes a menace to European peace and is an effective impediment to the restoration of Europe's economic prosperity. Effort after effort has been made to formulate a plan for the economic restoration of that part of Europe, M. Benes, M. Tardieu, and, latterly, Signor Mussolini have attempted the task.

The result has not been satisfactory, and the irresistible conclusion must be recognized that no economic scheme, unless it has as its basis the rectification of the artificial and unnatural frontiers created by the treaty in question, can be other than foredoomed to failure. The artificial isolation of interdependent economic areas is one of the main causes of the economic instability existent in an important part of Europe.

In our view a fair settlement of the difference between Hungary and her neighbours would restore tranquillity of mind and establish a real peace, without which no normal activity is possible. It is not too much to claim that, as soon as the mental disposition of the peoples in the Middle Danube Basin has undergone a change, the main impediment to economic cooperation will have ceased to exist, the interdependent areas of production and consumption will be able to find each other again, and that that destitution which now weighs heavily on the Succession States and Hungary alike will give place to the economic prosperity of all. We believe that the restoration of that prosperity is bound up with a fair and just revision of the Treaty of Trianon.

In any case there can be no question that the problem is of so vital a nature that the League of Nations should apply itself at once to a consideration of it. It has ample powers under Article XIX of the Covenant. Is it too much to hope that the League will go fully and impartially into the matter and make its recommendations to the States involved?