

countermanded the first disposition. Meantime the committee tried to intervene repeatedly with the police authorities but all in vain. Mr. Mécs was not allowed to appear. As a result of all this, the Hungarian soirée had to be held without the co-operation of Mr. Mécs. Nevertheless he was present at the performance. When the public noticed him seated in one of the boxes, they applauded him with a spontaneous and enthusiastic ovation. In the next moment policemen appeared and led Mr. Mécs away. He was not even permitted to assist as a spectator at the party which had been arranged in his honour.

FURTHER LINGUISTIC EXAMINATIONS IN RUMANIA

This time it is the turn of minority doctors and public health officers. According to a decree of the Minister for Public Health, district medical officers, hospital surgeons and physicians, and employees of hospitals must submit to linguistic examination early in April. (*Brassói Lapok*, issue of March 27.)

LATEST HUNGARIAN GRIEVANCES REGARDING POSTAL DELIVERY

The President of the Hungarian National Party in Rumania, *count George Bethlen*, filed on March 30st a complaint addressed to the General Post and Telegraph Office in Bucarest, in which he expounds the grievances submitted by Hungarians living in Transylvania regarding postal delivery. Count Bethlen pointed out, how postal authorities refuse the delivery of such consignments sent by post, on which *besides* the compulsory official Rumanian, the address was written also in Hungarian. It has even happened that a single Hungarian word contained in the address (such as "úrnak" = Mr. or Esq.) was sufficient to prevent delivery.

YUGOSLAVIA

DISCRIMINATION IN THE SCHOOLS

According to the Yugoslav-Roumanian school convention of March 10, 1933, teachers shall be invited

from the other signatory country and mutually appointed to Rumanian schools in Yugoslavia and to Yugoslav — i. e. Serb — schools in Rumania respectively, (that is to say in the Bănăt region belonging formerly to Hungary), in case of there not being available in the country itself, a sufficient number of teachers speaking perfectly the corresponding minority language. Two years after the conclusion of this convention, that is just recently, seven Serb teachers were sent from Yugoslavia to the Serb section of the Rumanian high school at Temesvár, whereas Rumanian teachers are expected to come to teach in the Rumanian section of the Serb high school at Versec. As many as 60 Rumanian teachers will shortly be appointed to the Rumanian sections of elementary State schools in the Bănăt; furthermore the creation of a new school for the training of Rumanian teachers is contemplated at Versec.

The convention thus grants the respective minorities of the two countries exceptionally favourable treatment which exceeds by far the minority rights contained in the international treaties signed by these States. One could not object if the rights thus granted to the Rumanian minority of Yugoslavia and to the Serb minority of Rumania were also extended to the far more numerous Hungarian minorities of these countries.

The international minority treaties concluded after the war actually grant minimum rights to racial minorities; their extension by acts of legislation or international conventions ought to be welcomed. Bilateral minority treaties, however, have the disadvantage of granting the minorities of the contracting States mutual rights in which the other minorities of the respective States do not share. This method abolishes the principle of equal rights which forms the basis of the international minority treaties concluded after the war and it creates a marked difference between the treatment of privileged and of oppressed minorities. An absurd situation is created in this way in which the very fact of the conclusion of a bilateral convention amounts to a violation of the minority treaties concluded between the Allied and Associated Powers.

THEATRE • LITERATURE • ART

HUNGARIAN LYRICS

by

Louis Ady

The development of Hungarian literature — like that of constitutional, economic, and cultural life — does not present an unbroken graphic line. The part assumed by the Hungarians in the middle of the 15th century in obstructing Turkish expansion towards the West, not only demanded huge losses of lives and of economic energies, but also seriously handicapped cultural progress. Although aggression on the part of the Turks ceased in the first quarter of the 18th century, the nation was so exhausted in the previous continual struggle that it took about a century to recover.

When, at last, the nation was once more able to work, it had to face a colossal task: it had to do all that remained undone during several centuries in the field of constitutional, economic, and cultural life. This feverish effort was successful in every respect, but nowhere to an extent as in the field of literature. A single century achieved results in this respect which were undoubtedly appreciable.

The efforts of those hundred years achieved remarkable results in every branch of literature. It goes without saying that the literary achievements, expe-

riences and examples of western nations had a due part in this. We readily admit, for example that the Hungarian novel was set an example and given an impulse, by English literature, especially by Walter Scott, whom Baron Nicholas Jósika had taken for his model. Hungarian drama, like that of every other civilized country, quite naturally developed under Shakespearean influence.

There is, however, a branch of our literature which, on the one hand, exceeds by far the value of any other branch of literature, and, on the other hand, is practically free of any foreign influence, although reciprocal influence is practically unavoidable in any kind of literature. The kind of poetry I am speaking of is lyrical poetry.

Hungarian lyrical poetry evolved of itself; although its first great representative, Valentine Balassa (1551—1594) sometimes appears dressed in the intellectual garb of humanist poets, he nevertheless shows the characteristics of Hungarian lyricism which make Hungarian lyrical poets altogether different from those of any other nation. The wide range of his poetic activity (religious, patriotic, and love songs) is yet enlarged by his having realized — as early as the 16th century — the beauty of nature. Hungarian lyricism does not come to an end with Balassa, it takes, however, as much as two centuries until another lyrical poet as great as himself appears in the person of Michel Csokonai Vitéz (1773—1805). He set out as a student-poet with a somewhat coarse sense of humour. Later on he became ethereal in delicacy and ventured into the greatest depths in his poems („The immortality of the soul”). Twenty-five years later Michael Vörösmarty (1800—1855), the leader of Hungarian romanticism, also an epic and dramatic poet, became, by barely a few dozens of lyrical poems, the unrivalled master of Hungarian poetic elocution at its golden age. There was as a matter of fact, many a star on the sky of Hungarian poetry in the first half of the 19th century; none was, however, an sparking in its brilliance as Alexander Petöfi (1823—1849), the greatest Hungarian lyric poet, and — I may add without any bias due to national feeling — one of the greatest lyric poets of world literature. He fell, pierced by the lance of a Cossack, barely twenty-six years old, fighting for liberty; during his short life, however he proved that he was

greatest among the great. After his death it seemed as if lyrical poetry could not develop any further in our literature, and in fact, the greatness of Petöfi prevented other lyric poets, even outstanding original talents like John Vajda (1827—1879), from asserting themselves for half a century. It was not before the beginning of the 20th century that Andrew Ady, the creator of modern Hungarian lyrics, found his opportunity to „sing the new songs of the new age”. His poetic activity led to unprecedented sharp literary arguments which lasted many years and to a certain extent are going on even to-day. After Ady Hungarian literature was flooded by lyrical poetry. The names of Michael Babits, Dezsö Kosztolányi, Árpád Tóth, among the youngest Lawrence Szabó and Julius Illyés, are enough, to mention only the most prominent poets. They represent riches which may be compared to that of the contemporary literature of any of the great Western nations.

What a pity that lyrical poetry of such exceptional quality should be limited to a nation of 12 millions, without obtaining any wider publicity! Lyrics — this is the kind of poetry which inevitably loses its blossom and flavour even through the best of translations. In fact, many of the poems of Petöfi and of the modern Hungarian lyrical poets have been translated, but these translations are of very doubtful value, since exceptional understanding is needed for sensing the living spark in an inadequate translation. Heinrich Heine actually felt that a poet greater than himself was speaking, when he read an altogether unpoetical translation of poems of Petöfi, which, besides, was not even correct in rendering the ideas of the poet (the Kertbeny translation). But it had to be a Heine to get even so far, and, it is still a long way from sensing poetical beauty to actual delight and appreciation.

It is the tragedy of small nations that, however grand and deep their lyrical poetry may be, it is shut within the narrow boundaries of language. This applies also to Hungarian lyrics. Petöfi is greater as a poet than Francis Liszt, Bartók, and Kodály are as musicians and Munkácsy and Philip László are as painters; nevertheless we must put up with the idea that the marvellous lyrics of Petöfi cannot even cross the Lajtha river, which, for a thousand years, has been the Western frontier of Hungary.

P O L I T I C A L E C O N O M Y

THE LITTLE ENTENTE IN THE LIGHT OF TRADE BETWEEN CZECHO-SLOVAKIA AND RUMANIA

As usual, after being in effect for a brief few months, the trade agreements between the two States had to be revised to meet Rumania's wishes. It is characteristic of the value of the economic Little Entente, that the agreement concluded between Czecho-Slovakia and Rumania at the beginning of April does not increase, but reduce the goods traffic. According to the terms of that agreement Czecho-Slovakia's exports will be reduced by 44%, while those of Rumania are to be increased by 27%. Czecho-Slovakia's 271 million Czech kronen export quota for 1934 has been reduced by 150 millions, while Rumania's last year's quota of 186 million Czech kronen has been raised to 238 millions.

A U S T R I A

A LAW CONCERNING THE ISSUE OF TREASURY BILLS

The most recent law concerning the issue of Treasury bills authorizes the Finance Minister to issue in 1935 Treasury bills not to exceed a nominal value of 20 million Shillings for the temporary backing up of federal treasuries. The Treasury bills must be made out in terms of Shilling and may cover the temporary demand on cash offices; they are not supposed to settle in a definite way the federal expenditure. The Treasury bills may not be made out for a period longer than three months and cannot be prolonged. Redeemed Treasury bills cannot be issued again. The present law does not affect the right of the Finance Minister to