back as 1927 published a pamphlet in which he attacked the system of taxation and on the basis of exact data showed that the Vojvodina (the southern district of former Hungary annexed to Yugoslavia) was paying considerably more in taxes than Serbia and Montenegro combined: while at a meeting of the tax committee of the National Assembly held on November 29th., 1927, Dushan Letica, the present Minister of Finance who was then head of the tax department of the State, showed that the net revenue per cadastral yoke forming the basis for the assessment of the land taxes had been fixed as follows for the several provinces (departments): — Vojvodina (pre-War Southern Hungary), 660 dinars; Croatia and Slavonia, 165 dinars; Slovenia, 161 dinars; Bosnia and Herzegovina, 150 dinars; Old Serbia, 180 dinars; Macedonia, 150 dinars; Dalmatia, 40 dinars; and Montenegro, 20 dinars.

In illustration of the system of taxation which is so unequal and weighs particularly heavily on the Magyar and German minorities the "Politika", a Belgrade daily, — in one of its July, 1928, issues, published a statement based upon official data showing that the tax charge per head of population is as follows: — in Vojvodina, 1836 dinars; in Dalmatia, 454 dinars; in Serbia and Montenegro, 554 dinars; in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 694 dinars; in Croatia and Slavonia, 783 dinars; and in Slovenia, 1336 dinars. The above quota of 1846 dinars per head of population in Vojvodina did not however include the exceptionally heavy additional parish taxes (rates) imposed in the territory of that province, which, in particular in the villages inhabited by Magyars rose to 1000—1600%, these charges being made more serious still by the provincial imposts and (since October 3rd., 1929) by the banate taxes and dues.

And that this system of taxation of so unequal a character having for its principal object the complete impoverishment of the Vojvodina and more especially of the once well-to-do Magyar and German inhabitants of that province, has not changed since, is shown by the speeches made during the meetings of the financial committee of the Skupstina held in July last. Dr. Mirko Koshitch, university professor and member of the National Assembly, showed on the basis of official data that the larger half of the land taxes amounting altogether to 650 million dinars, is exacted of the farmers of the Vojvodina — 220 million dinars under the head of original taxes and 120 million dinars under the head of supplementary taxes ("dopunski"), though the arable land of the Vojvodina represents barely one-tenth of the territory of the country under cultivation. Dr. Koshitch naturally forgot to add that the bulk of this disproportionate amount in taxes has to be paid by farmers belonging to the Hungarian (Magyar) and German minorities.

THEATRE • LITERATURE • ART

HUNGARIAN FOLK PERFORMANCES IN LONDON

The study of folk-lore is in its heyday. The desire to know the particular traits of the various peoples is strong in the heart of every nation, and surely it was that desire which inspired the idea of getting the European civilized nations to sing their songs and dance their dances in London this summer. The representatives of the most characteristic forms of native art set out from eighteen European countries to meet there and give an exhibition of all that best characterises the artistry of their people. The most interesting and original national traits found expression in the rhythm of their music and dances, in temperament, and in costumes. There was colour, primitive force, and some instinct for acting that sprang from the depths of their beings and carried them away with it. The people who were present have reason to feel grateful to those who arranged the performances, and gave them the chance to enjoy an unusual experience.

The vivid colour-schemes of the Hungarian peasant costumes, the proud dignity of the Hungarian race, its cheerfulness and good-humour, were conspicuous even in this great international competition. The *Gyöngyösbokréta ("Pearl Bouquet")* a company which has set itself the task of preserving and cultivating ancient Hungarian customs and forms of life, selected a group of peasants and sent them to London. All the districts in Hungary that count from the point of view of peasant art were — as far as possible — represented. What they had to offer, and the way they offered it, awoke great interest among the English spectators. When the procession in Hyde Park formed, the vivid vivacious Hungarian group was clearly conspicuous among the rest, as, headed by their enthusiastic conductor, Béla Paulini, they marched through thousands and thousands of admiring spectators. The important English newpapers, amongst others the "Daily Mail" and the "Daily Telegraph", published articles about them and also photographs of the Hungarian march-by.

The scenes acted in the Albert Hall, though more particularly those played at the open-air performance in Regent's Park, called forth loud applause from audiences numbering ten thousand. It was the genuine, original Hungarian peasant who appeared before them — just his own native unembarassed self —, and perharps it was this very simplicity which, triumphing over artificiality and pretence, made the deepest impression on the audience. The Hungarian players were not simply singing and dancing spots of colour, but men and women who live and love and lead natural, spontaneous lives.

The week spent in London by the *Gyöngyösbokréta* was eloquent proof that in the Danube Valley there is a nation which, though weighed down under the terrible disaster of having lost the greater part of its fatherland, has the will to live and shall live, thanks to the common human virtues which give it strength to right for a brighter future.

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THE WRITS OF FRANCIS LISZT — CODIFIED BY THE HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT

A few months hence the public will celebrate the jubilee of Francis Liszt. In course of this the civilized world will pay homage to the musical genius of the great Hungarian composer. The Liszt memorial year will begin on October 22-nd, 1935 and end on October 22-nd, 1936; the first is the 125-th aniversary of Liszt's

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birth and also the fiftieth anniversary of his death.

On September 10-th, the Hungarian Broadcasting Company will announce the commencment of the Liszt festival. At the same time it will arrange a magnificent concert which will be relayed by the broadcasting stations of Europe. This concert will be conducted by Dr. Ernest de Dohnányi. The programme will comprise the following items: „Tasso", a symphonic poem, „Death dance", „The three gipsies", „Loreley", and the „Fourteenth Rhapsody". On the same day, Sept. 10, the BBC will also give a Liszt concert.

On October 21-st a memorial tablet will be placed in the wall of the Redoute, the scene of Liszt's most successful appearances. On the next day, the birthday of the immortal master, a high mass will be celebrated by Cardinal Justinian Serédi, the Primate of Hungary, in King Matthias's coronation church. Liszt's „Coronation mass" will be performed in the presence of Nicholas Horthy, Regent of Hungary, the members of the Government of Parliament, and the Diplomatic Service. After the high mass a musical festival will be arranged by the Francis Liszt Academy of Music, which will be followed by the opening of the Liszt memorial exhibition.

In the evening there will be a musical festival in the Opera house comprising some of Liszt's works. From that day on, the Hungarian Broadcasting Company will give Liszt concerts and lectures on Liszt; there will be one every week of the jubilee year, always on the same day and at the same hour. On Oct. 21-st and 22-nd the foreign diplomats accredited in Hungary will lecture on Liszt in the radio.

During the jubilee year the Philharmonic Society will perform one of Liszt's works at each of its concerts and it will also give a special Liszt concert. The performance of Liszt's sacred works will be another item of great importance. The „Requiem", a work which is rarely heard, will be one of these; besides the monumental oratorios, and the master's works for the piano, orchestra, choir, and the organ, the songs of Liszt will also be one of the items of these programmes. There will also be popular Liszt concerts, performances for the youth, magnificent open air musical performances. Government will offer a prize for the young composers. There will be Liszt memorial coins as well as Liszt stamps, of course.

Immense interest is already shown from abroad. University choral unions from America have expressed their desire to take part in the Hungarian festivities, and a number of musical conductors from England have done the same. The Heroes' Day, the June Weeks, and St. Stephen's Week will be conducted in the spirit of the great composer; on the aniversary of his death, July 31-st, 1936, a magnificent commemoration service will take place. Those festivities will reach their highest point in October 1936. The organising committee is entertaining the idea of arranging an international congress of music in Budapest next year, in the month of May. This congress will lay the foundations of the International Order of Musicians in the spirit of Francis Liszt.

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IN SZEGED "CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA" WAS CONDUCTED BY MASCAGNI IN PERSON

The Szeged oper air performances — a two-years-old institution — are over. They were followed with great interest by visitors from abroad, as well as by Hungarians. Last year the masterpiece of the great Hungarian poet-philosophes, *Imre Madách* „The Tragedy of Man" was staged. Many distinguished foreigners, amongst others *Dr. Kurt Schuschnigg*, Austrian Chancellor, were in the audience. An impressive setting is afforded by the immense square enclosed by the Votive Cathedral and the University buildings, the monumental proportions of which are a lasting memorial to the genius of the late Count *Cuno Klebelsberg*, Hungarian Minister of Education, who died suddenly a few years ago at the height of his creative power.

It would be impossible to find a frame more fitting for the open air performance of *Mascagni's "Cavalleria Rusticana"* than this Neo-Romanesque Square. *Mascagni*, who conducted his masterpiece on August 10th and the two following days, spoke with enthusiasm of the beauty of the setting and the unique perfection of the acoustics, which makes the Square an ideal stage for open air performances. Those who were present at these performances left feeling that they were the richer by a memorable experience. The fascination of *Mascagni's* personality, which informed the music and the acting with entirely new expressions and new colours — sweet lyric languor alternating with stormy gusts of passion and dramatic impetuosity — conjured unknown magic out of the well-known opera, and held the audience breathless, every nerve strained with attention. He was able to produce quite unexpected effects by the aid of relatively limited means, an orchestra which though well-disciplined numbered only 70 and a chorus by no means large compared with the size of the Square. The throbbing drama of the opera took on new life and new brillance as a result of his interpretation. Success was assured from the very outset, and grew with the unfolding of the drama, till at last it ended in thunders of applause.

„Cavalleria Rusticana" was on all three occasions followed by the best opera of the famous Hungarian composer *Eugen Hubay, "The Fiddler of Cremona"*. On August 13th *"Glaucos"*, a poetic drama by *Ercole Luigo Morselli*, an Italian dramatist who died young, was performed on the water-stage in the Szeged swimming pool. "The Tragedy of Man" was played on the succeeding days.

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POLITICAL ECONOMY

AUSTRIA

STRUGGLE AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT

On July 1st there was put into force the Federal Law in terms of which all industrial groups which employed 20% more workers in the first half of 1935 than in the previous year, may be granted subsidies not exceeding 50% of the amount of unemployment doles thus saved. — At the end of July the number of workers receiving doles was 220,600 — i. e. 36,800, 80,200 and 45,800 fewer respectively than at the same period of 1934, 1933 and 1932 respectively.

BULGARIA

BANK RATE LOWERED

The Bulgarian National Bank has lowered its discount rate from 7 to 6% and the rate of interest on loans on securities from 8 to 7%, the measure tak-

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