

## POLITICAL MOSAIC

### HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT ENTHUSIASTICALLY PASSES BILL RELATING TO ELECTION OF DEPUTY REGENT

Great enthusiasm was shown by the Hungarian Parliament when passing the Bill which incorporates the dignity of Deputy Regent in the organisation for the exercise of the supreme political power. This Bill supplements the Hungarian fundamental laws drafted for the purpose of determining the legal sphere of power of the Regent. In terms of the new Bill the Regent of Hungary is entitled to the right of nomination in connection with the filling of the office of Deputy Regent; and a joint session of the two Houses of Parliament is to be held to elect the person designated to fill this high dignity. In the event of only one person being nominated too the question is to be put to the vote, the ballot to be secret. In the event of the Regent not availing himself of the right of nomination the joint session may also nominate, though only when at least 150 Members are present. Parliament may elect also by acclamation, if its will is manifested in a manner leaving no room for doubt. The Deputy Regent is to take the oath; and as being the Deputy of the Regent, is entitled to the same rights, the same protection under the criminal code, and inviolability, the only right to which he is not entitled being that of nominating a person for election as Regent. In the event of the office of Regent becoming vacant, in terms of the constitutional law passed in 1937 the sphere of authority of Regent shall be exercised by the Regency Council until such time as the new Regent — to be elected with the least possible delay — shall have taken the oath, when *the official functions of the Deputy Regent shall also cease.*

The Preamble to the Bill stresses that the Bill was necessary in view of the fact that situations might arise in which the person exercising the royal power — at present the Regent — may for shorter or longer periods be prevented by residence abroad, a campaign, illness or the need for rest due to exhaustion or other causes from performing the functions of this office. In the present period of unrest in particular it is impossible to maintain a deficient system of constitutional law which fails to provide for the appointment of a deputy Regent in the event of there being obstacles to the actual exercise of the Regent's power.

*A consideration of all these moments had led to the conviction that the best thing to do was to provide for the deputisation of the Regent by the creation of the office of Deputy Regent in keeping with the existing situation, though taking care that the new provisions shall dovetail into the other measures in*

public law which have during the last two decades served to build up the institution of the Regency.

The institution of Deputy Regent can naturally only be effectively dovetailed into the life of the State *in the event of the Deputy Regent working in complete harmony with the Regent*; the latter must therefore be ensured a decisive influence in the selection of the person of the Deputy Regent. The harmony between the Regent and his Deputy must consequently be founded upon personal securities.

This new institution is in perfect harmony with the spirit of Hungarian public law; for *during the course of the historical past of the country provision was made continuously for the deputisation of the Head of State*, the dignity of Palatine — who figured as the king's deputy — having been maintained also by the Act of 1867.

Both Houses of the Hungarian Parliament availed themselves of the opportunity presented by the debate on the Bill to demonstrate their allegiance and enthusiastic affection for the highly respected and beloved Person of the Regent of Hungary. All speakers alike stressed that his undying merits had raised Nicholas Horthy to a place among the greatest Heads of State and that there was no precedent for the respect and popularity enjoyed by the Regent and demonstrated alike by the whole Hungarian nation and by every son of the Hungarian people.

### HUNGARY'S DEPUTY-REGENT: PARLIAMENT UNANIMOUSLY ELECTS VITÉZ STEPHEN HORTHY DE NAGYBÁNYA

The election of a Deputy-Regent took place on 19th February at a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament. When the Speaker of the Upper House, Count Bartholomew Széchenyi, had stated that, as the meeting was attended by 203 members of the Upper House and 280 members of the Lower House, a quorum was present; that the Regent had waived his right to nominate candidates and that no one desired to put the question to the vote, *he then announced amidst unanimous acclamation and scenes of spontaneous enthusiasm that vitéz Stephen Horthy de Nagybánya had been elected Deputy-Regent of Hungary.*

The gaily decorated Cupola Hall of the Parliament was thronged with a distinguished gathering, — *amongst others present were all the accredited diplomats stationed in Budapest*, — which loudly cheered the Regent and Madame Horthy when they made their appearance after the election had taken place. When the Regent had confirmed the election, a delegation was chosen to carry the news to the new Deputy-Regent. The members of that delegation were Baron Sigismund Perényi, keeper of the Regalia and John Szabó on behalf of the Upper House and Béla Ivády and Andrew Csizmadia, a small farmer, on behalf of the

Lower House. Amidst cheers that seemed as if they would never cease the Deputy-Regent in the uniform of a lieutenant of the Air Force made his entry into the Cupola Hall. He was asked by the Speaker of the Lower House, M. Andrew Nagy de Tasnád *to take an oath to be loyal to the Regent, to keep the laws of the land, respect its ancient and approved customs and make others keep and respect them, defend the independence and territorial integrity of Hungary, perform the duties of his office in concord with the Parliament, the Regent and the Government, and do all he justly could for the benefit and glory of the country.* The election of the Deputy-Regent and the text of his oath were incorporated in an Act of Parliament which was signed by the Regent.

Vitéz Stephen Horthy de Nagybánya was born in 1904. He was the eighth of this great and ancient Hungarian family to bear the name of Stephen. His birthplace was Pola; his infancy was spent in Constantinople and Vienna, where his father occupied a high position. He was educated in Budapest, obtaining a firstrate secondary school leaving certificate and an equally excellent diploma at the Budapest University of Technical Science. By the time he had obtained his diploma as a mechanical engineer he had mastered the German, French and English languages. During his student years he went through a course of training at the Naval Academy, and *in 1926 volunteered for military service.* He joined the Air Force, and proving an excellent pilot, gradually rose to the rank of a lieutenant. *As a lieutenant of the Air Force he took part in the military operations connected with the return of Northern Transylvania and Eastern Hungary.*

His first job was in the department of the Csepel Machine Factory producing aeroplane motors, where he worked as a foreman. *Later on he worked as an engineer in the Ford Works in America.* In 1930 he became the chief engineer of the motor-car department of the Hungarian State Iron, Steel and Machine Works, where by 1939 he had risen through the ranks of technical director, head councillor, vice-director and director to the dignity of managing director. Some time later he became president of the Hungarian State Railways.

The new Deputy-Regent is one of Hungary's best engineers, organizers and technical experts. He it was who in Bombay, where he flew alone in his little sport aeroplane, established an agency of the Hungarian State Railways. *His flight to Bombay is regarded as one of the greatest feats in the history of international sport flying. It was due to his efforts that the Hungarian Aero Alliance was established, the first Hungarian aeroplane factory set up and the training of pilots organized.* He is an excellent-all-round sportsman, a firstrate horseman, and his big game hunting

exploits in Africa are well known to all big game hunters throughout the world.

He was elected to a seat in the Upper House by the County of Jász-Nagykún-Szolnok. He founded a number of youth sport societies and was one of the pioneers of tourist traffic in Hungary.

In 1940 he married the Countess Ilona Edelsheim-Gyulai. They set off for their honeymoon by aeroplane, visiting *Southern Italy, Tunis, Libya, Egypt, the Sudan, Palestine and Syria*, and returning to Budapest *via Turkey, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia*. This journey of 8000 kilometres by air was one of the world's most successful flights. The Deputy-Regent has one child, a boy eighteen months' old named Stephen after his father.

### DEPUTIES FROM SOUTHERN HUNGARY SUMMONED TO PARLIAMENT

In accordance with Hungarian law, until it is possible to elect Members of both Houses of Parliament to represent the restored areas, the legislative body may, on the Government's recommendation, summon deputies from those parts to attend Parliament, while the Regent has the constitutional right to appoint Members of the Upper House. This took place when a strip of Upper Hungary, Subcarpathia and part of Transylvania were restored, and now, on 6th February, both Houses of Parliament *unanimously adopted the Government's motion to summon twenty-six representatives from the restored Southern areas. Of these twenty-six representatives three are members of the German racial community, two are Serbs, one is a leader of the Vends and two represent the Bunyevatz people. Among the new deputies we find one agricultural labourer, three small holders, two secondary school teachers, two journalists, two Roman Catholic priests and one Reformed Church pastor. The rest are land-owners, engineers, doctors and tradesmen. One manufacturer, one landowner, one Bishop of the Reformed Church and one of the leaders of the German racial community have been appointed by the Regent to represent Southern Hungary in the Upper House.*

The first formal appearance in the Hungarian Parliament of the deputies from Southern Hungary took place on 9th February. On their arrival the Hungarian anthem was played, and they were welcomed with loud acclamation. The Speaker, M. Andrew Nagy de Tasnád, expressed the pleasure he felt at welcoming the worthy representatives of an ancient part of Hungary in the home of the Hungarian legislature. *The Magyars — he said — extended a cordial and friendly welcome also to those of them who were not of Magyar race, whom they did not regard as strangers but as citizens of the Hungarian*

*State enjoying the same rights as the Magyars and upon whose wisdom, goodwill and sense of responsibility reliance could be placed.* The Speaker emphasized that, although the sword must be wielded honourably, the implements of labour may not be laid aside.

M. Ivan Nagy spoke on behalf of the new deputies from Southern Hungary. *He expressed their gratitude to the Regent, the Hungarian army and Hungary's great friends, the Führer and the Duce, for having put an end at the cost of war to the sufferings of the enslaved Magyars of Southern Hungary.* Those Magyars, like the rest of the Magyars all the world over, were devoted to the Regent. M. Nagy declared that the injustices they had suffered in the detached areas had broken down all social barriers between Magyar and Magyar. *He promised that the new deputies would work for the whole Hungarian nation, that they would be the apostles of Hungarian co-operation, and faithful adherents to the principles of St. Stephen, which guaranteed equality to all the minorities, though naturally only those who were loyal to Hungary and respected her laws could lay claim to that right.*

#### AGGREGATE NUMBER OF INHABITANTS OF HUNGARY 14,668,000

The 1941 Census was taken by the *Central Statistical Bureau* as representing the state of things existing on January 31st., 1941, — i. e. prior to the return to the mother-country of the district of Southern Hungary subsequently re-incorporated. In the middle of October, 1941, the collection of the Census data was extended also to the districts of Southern Hungary which had in the meantime been recovered.

On the basis of the reports received from the 339 towns and villages situated in these districts the Central Statistical Bureau has compiled the preliminary figures of the Southern Hungary Census. According to the provisional results showing the state of things existing on October 10th., 1941, *the number of persons living in the territories re-annexed after the collapse of Yugoslavia is 1,024,876.* According to the preliminary data collected by the Census taken at the end of January, 1941, *the number of inhabitants living in the territory of Hungary as it stood prior to the liberation of the districts of Southern Hungary, was 13,643,620.* We see then that on the basis of the total numbers shown by these two Censuses — not taken quite simultaneously — *the population of present-day Hungary may be computed at roughly 14,668,000 souls.* This number may — by natural increase — *have risen between the beginning of February and the middle of October, 1941, to 14,733,000.*

Immediately after the conclusion of the Treaty of Trianon,



of Eastern Hungary and of Transylvania which have been re-incorporated in the mother-country.

One of the fundamental problems of the economic life of Transylvania is how to raise the level of agriculture in order to serve the purposes of surplus production. The first *sine qua non* indispensable to a solution of this problem is that agricultural professional education should be placed upon proper foundations. During the days of Rumanian rule the areas of Transylvania now restored possessed only a single agricultural college, and two State and two denominational agricultural (farm) schools. Apart from further developing these institutes the Hungarian Government has adopted the so-called "winter agricultural schools" as the most desirable type of school for this branch of professional education. *Agricultural schools of this kind have been opened at Bántfyhunyad, Gyergyószentmiklós and Szászrégen.* Preparations have also been made for the opening in the near future of agricultural secondary schools at *Marosvásárhely and Sepsiszentgyörgy.* For the benefit of farmers belonging to older generations *36 winter agricultural courses have been arranged* which will be in progress so long as the winter weather lasts. For women *three months' courses in agriculture and household economy have been organised at Csiksomlyó, Kézdivásárhely, Marosvásárhely and Zilah.*

For the purpose of ensuring the continuity of production — as also of improving the standard of quality of the products — during last autumn the Government distributed among the farmers of Transylvania 300 wagon-loads of wheat and 60 wagon-loads of rye seeds. Last year great difficulties were caused by shortage of agricultural machinery in the areas of Transylvania restored to the mother-country. To counteract the effects of this shortage, last autumn, with the co-operation of the Association of Magyar Farmers of Transylvania (EMGE) *several hundred drill ploughs and winnowing machines were distributed among the villages in need of such.* Among poorer farmers ploughs, harrows and chaff-cutters, as well as other necessary appliances and implements, were distributed. The Government has taken special measures also for the development of fruit-growing in Transylvania. *In 46 villages, for example, autumn courses in the science of pomology arranged last year initiated no fewer than 3200 students into the secrets of the up-to-date cultivation of fruit-trees.*

In Transylvania exceptionally great importance attaches to pasturage as being the principal factor in the feeding of the live stock. In every county model pastures have been created; and, where that was feasible, the model pastures have been located on an Alpine level. The Government has made considerable material sacrifices for the purpose of raising the qualitative standard of animal-breeding. *To that end more than 1800*

*cows and calves, 1300 brood mares, 500 brood rams, 6000 ewes, 1000 Mangalitza (Hungarian breed) sows and 1400 head of brood poultry have been distributed at specially reduced prices.* The authorities are confronted with gigantic problems in the field of veterinary hygiene. As a consequence of the neglect of the former (Rumanian) régime there are very many cases of glanders and of mange among the horses, while the stock of sheep has been decimated by fluke. For the purpose of destroying every trace of glanders the whole stock of horses in Transylvania has been examined. For the development of dairy farming, during the second half of last year courses in milk industry were organised at Kolozsvár, Csikszereda, Székelykeresztur and Marosvásárhely. Special mention should be made of the sugar-production problem of County Háromszék. In this region there is a highly-developed cultivation of sugar-beet. The Botfalú refinery — which previously manufactured the beet produced in this county — is on the other side of the frontier. As a consequence of the intervention of the Department of Agriculture the management of the spirit régime has undertaken to make production contracts with all the farmers who in the past too grew sugar-beet and to pay the same price for the beet as the sugar refineries. In this manner the disadvantage resulting from the Botfalú refinery having remained on the Rumanian side of the frontier will be completely eliminated. In respect of the industrial plants, special mention is due to the cultivation of flax, for which Széklerland is particularly suitable; owing to the lack of means of industrial manufacture, this plant was previously very little cultivated: but now the Department of Agriculture is using every effort to organise at Sepsiszentgyörgy a large-scale establishment for the manufacture of this article which shall encourage the extension over the whole area of Széklerland of the cultivation of flax for industrial purposes.

In other fields too the Governments is making exceptional efforts; in Csik County alone, for instance, tenders have been invited for the electrification of 21 villages, the operations for this purpose to be begun already in the spring. Kolozs County has been granted 317.000 pengő to cover the costs of road repairs. County Háromszék alone received from the Government during the course of a single year the sum of 4.115.958 pengő in the form of subsidies and loans respectively. *3.5 million pengő have been foreseen for cultural building purposes;* and this amount is to be utilised in full already during the current year, — there being indeed every prospect of further credits being appropriated for the purpose. The Social Insurance Institute's building estimates for the year 1942 foresee the outlay of sums exceeding 1.000.000 pengő in amount for the development of health-resorts and watering-places in Transylvania.