

# TEN YEARS AS REGENT

## ADMIRAL HORTHY'S SERVICES

### THE NEW HUNGARY

16

wide culture, an "intellectual" to his finger-tips, a charming personality, and a brilliant talker. Monsignor Vass is a complete contrast. His origins are of the humblest. He has the thick-set body and square features of the typical Hungarian peasant farmer, but his massive jaw and penetrating eyes show his masterful personality, fitted by nature and by the training of the Roman Catholic Church to organize and direct. In his clerical robes, with their scarlet braid and lining, he suggests one of the prelate-politicians of the latter Middle Ages.

Last summer, when the fall in the world-price of grain began to be acutely perceptible to the pockets of European farmers, Hungary awoke to the fact that it was rather over-taxed. In five years the State Budget had grown from £43,000,000 to £53,000,000. This increase was largely attributable to the policy of the Ministers of Education and Social Welfare, who had between them succeeded in netting no less than £8,000,000 for their respective departments. People pulled long faces at Count Klebelsberg's immense crop of new schools and Monsignor Vass's palatial sanatoria, and began to wonder whether it were worth while for Hungarian children to have the opportunity of a first-class education, and for the aged and helpless to be provided for by the State, so long as the average citizen was on the verge of bankruptcy.

That mood has passed and the results of the lavish expenditure remain. They are certainly something of which Hungarians can be proud.

#### BID FOR SUPERIORITY

The efforts made in the past five years in these two spheres of national education and public health show how earnestly and deliberately the Hungarians are setting to work to equip themselves to compete with other nations. They are comparatively few in numbers, and they are surrounded by peoples whom they have made their enemies. They feel that they may be swamped unless they can show themselves man for man superior in every way to their neighbours. This idea is at the root of their effort. Whether the Government is right in checking the political, while raising the physical and intellectual, standard of the nation remains to be seen. It is probable that both the Regent and Count Bethlen are unwilling to risk going too fast and too far for the very powerful landed class. There is grumbling among the Liberals on this ground, and more among the Socialists. But, with few exceptions, the moderate critics of the régime leave the Regent out of their criticisms.

His popularity has grown with the years, and Parliament has paid him the compliment of directing Government to give his name to the great new bridge across the Danube.

\*\* Illustrations on page 18.

looked with horror on Bela Kun's Government, it disliked the idea of a Magyar military revival.

Many of the young nobles and landed gentry in the Army were hard to discipline, and when the Bolshevik Army collapsed under the Rumanian attack on the Theiss many regulars and irregulars broke loose and indulged in reprisals not only on the Communists but on those who were merely suspected of having supported them, while the Admiral and his better-disciplined troops chafed at Szegedin. It was not till the Rumanians had evacuated Budapest that he could enter the capital and reorganize the shaken State.

His proclamation as Regent by a large majority of the two Houses by no means put an end to his difficulties. No politician, he found himself Regent of a country where politics rival sport in the affections of a powerful open-air aristocracy, where politicians are inclined to turn the blind eye to the consequences of adventure.

By a strange paradox it was Kaiser Karl's two unsuccessful attempts to seize the throne in 1921 that lightened the burden of the monarchist Regent. The Admiral knew that restoration meant invasion by Serbs, Czechs, and probably by Rumanians as well, and the popular support which he received at the claimant's second attempt showed clearly enough that his policy of maintaining the provisional régime had succeeded. Since then he has remained a very constitutional Head of the

#### A SHAKEN STATE

The Bolshevik seizure of Government at Budapest in 1919 gave the Admiral his next opportunity. He joined the Nationalist Government formed at Szegedin as Minister of War, and on July 14 was appointed Commander-in-Chief. His position was difficult enough. If the Entente looked with horror on Bela Kun's Government, it disliked the idea of a Magyar military revival. Many of the young nobles and landed gentry in the Army were hard to discipline, and when the Bolshevik Army collapsed under the Rumanian attack on the Theiss many regulars and irregulars broke loose and indulged in reprisals not only on the Communists but on those who were merely suspected of having supported them, while the Admiral and his better-disciplined troops chafed at Szegedin. It was not till the Rumanians had evacuated Budapest that he could enter the capital and reorganize the shaken State.

His proclamation as Regent by a large majority of the two Houses by no means put an end to his difficulties. No politician, he found himself Regent of a country where politics rival sport in the affections of a powerful open-air aristocracy, where politicians are inclined to turn the blind eye to the consequences of adventure.

By a strange paradox it was Kaiser Karl's two unsuccessful attempts to seize the throne in 1921 that lightened the burden of the monarchist Regent. The Admiral knew that restoration meant invasion by Serbs, Czechs, and probably by Rumanians as well, and the popular support which he received at the claimant's second attempt showed clearly enough that his policy of maintaining the provisional régime had succeeded. Since then he has remained a very constitutional Head of the State, popular for his straightforwardness in thought and speech, and as happy in the saddle as most Magyars. A lucky man, perhaps—but one who has deserved his luck.

#### REALIST PRIME MINISTER

He has a very able Prime Minister; Count Bethlen, who has been nearly as long in office as the Regent, has steered the Hungarian ship of State through some very dangerous waters. To him must be given the credit for having revived West European and American confidence in the future of the diminished Hungarian State. In politics he is a realist, whose instinctive sympathies may not differ much from those of other Magyar aristocrats, but who has quickly recognized, as they have been slow to do, that Europe has changed, and that it is useless to kick against the pricks of the peace treaty. He has, moreover, understood the importance of Geneva—for other reasons than his Calvinism. His greatest political successes in persuading the Reparation Commission to agree to the suspension of the Hungarian Reparation payments and in persuading his countrymen to escape the worst consequences of inflation by accepting the financial control of the League of Nations were the fruits of his realism; he believed in the good intentions of the League and equally in its financial reasonableness. Thanks to his steady insistence with his compatriots, Hungary to-day has a stable currency, a balanced Budget, and a sound financial administration, and her credit stands high in London and New York.

The two side-pillars of the "Government of Unity," which, under Count Bethlen's premiership, will soon have governed Hungary for 10 years, are Count Klebelsberg, the Minister of Education, and Monsignor Vass, the Minister of Social Welfare and Labour. Both are men of large ideas and abundant energy and independence and have helped more than any others to shape the internal policy of the Government. Though rivals in some respects, their aims are essentially one and the same—namely, to make the diminished Hungary left by the Treaty of Trianon a model among the smaller States of South-Eastern Europe, so that it shall be able to impose itself upon its neighbours by the superiority of its institutions and the high cultural level of its citizens.

Count Klebelsberg comes from a family of German extraction, which owes its title of nobility not to property but to devoted service to the State. He is a man of

wide culture, an "intellectual" to his finger-tips, a charming personality, and a brilliant talker. Monsignor Vass is a complete contrast. His origins are of the humblest. He has the thick-set body and square features of the typical Hungarian peasant farmer, but his massive jaw and penetrating eyes show his masterful personality, fitted by nature and by the training of the Roman Catholic Church to organize and direct. In his clerical robes, with their scarlet braid and lining, he suggests one of the prelate-politicians of the latter Middle Ages.

Last summer, when the fall in the world-price of grain began to be acutely perceptible to the pockets of European farmers, Hungary awoke to the fact that it was rather over-taxed. In five years the State Budget had grown from £43,000,000 to £53,000,000. This increase was largely attributable to the policy of the Ministers of Education and Social Welfare, who had between them succeeded in netting no less than £8,000,000 for their respective departments. People pulled long faces at Count Klebelsberg's immense crop of new schools and Monsignor Vass's palatial sanatoria, and began to wonder whether it were worth while for Hungarian children to have the opportunity of a first-class education, and for the aged and helpless to be provided for by the State, so long as the average citizen was on the verge of bankruptcy.

That mood has passed and the results of the lavish expenditure remain. They are certainly something of which Hungarians can be proud.

### BID FOR SUPERIORITY

The efforts made in the past five years in these two spheres of national education and public health show how earnestly and deliberately the Hungarians are setting to work to equip themselves to compete with other nations. They are comparatively few in numbers, and they are surrounded by peoples whom they have made their enemies. They feel that they may be swamped unless they can show themselves man for man superior in every way to their neighbours. This idea is at the root of their effort. Whether the Government is right in checking the political, while raising the physical and intellectual, standard of the nation remains to be seen. It is probable that both the Regent and Count Bethlen are unwilling to risk going too fast and too far for the very powerful landed class. There is grumbling among the Liberals on this ground, and more among the Socialists. But, with few exceptions, the moderate critics of the régime leave the Regent out of their criticisms.

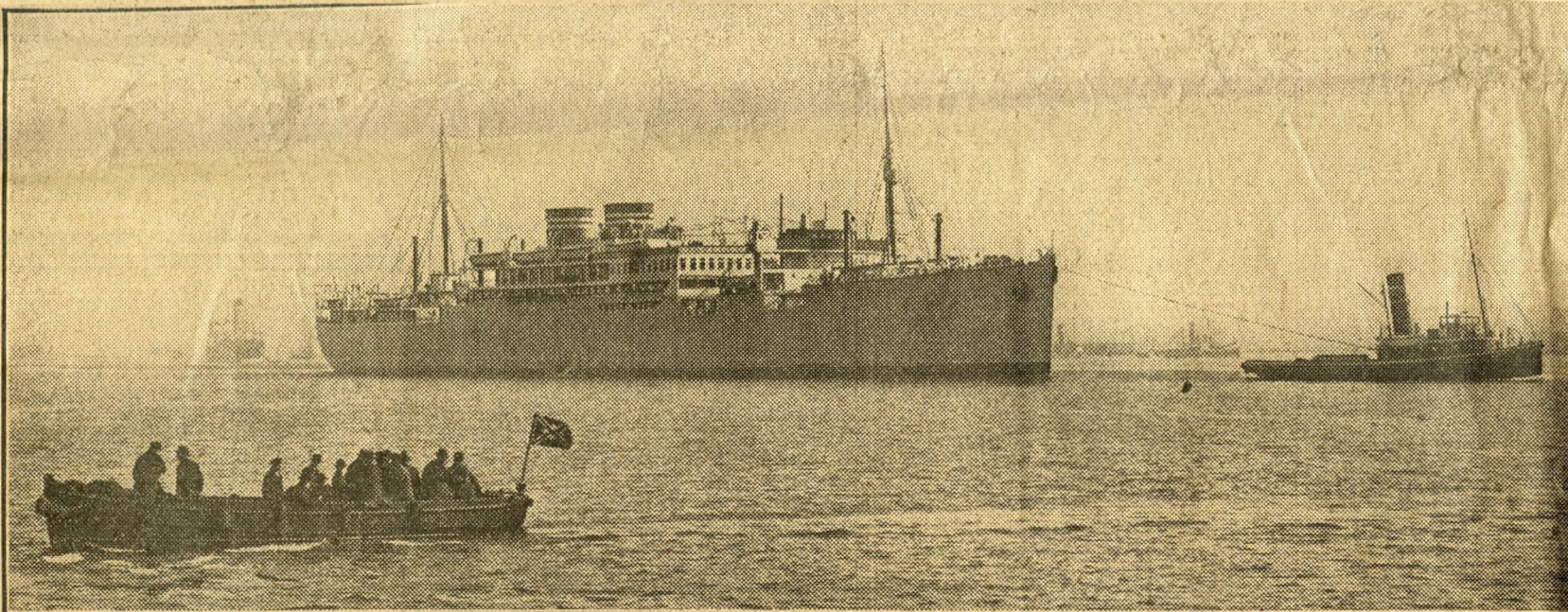
His popularity has grown with the years, and Parliament has paid him the compliment of directing Government to give his name to the great new bridge across the Danube.

\*\* Illustrations on page 18.

# BUDAPEST: MAGYAR TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL HORTHY



THE DANUBE AND THE REGENT'S PALACE.—The tenth anniversary of the election of Admiral Horthy as Regent of Hungary will be celebrated by the Magyar people to-morrow, and a special law commemorating his services will be passed by Parliament. As a tribute to his popularity the new bridge across the Danube, which will link together the southern parts of the town, is to be named the Nicholas Horthy Bridge. Above is a view of Budapest from St. Gellért's Hill, showing the Royal Palace (the Regent's Residence) in the middle distance. The nearest bridge is the Szechenyi chain bridge, the first permanent bridge to connect Buda and Pest. It was designed by an English engineer, W. Clarke, and built between 1839 and 1849. Beyond the bridge on the right are the Hungarian Houses of Parliament.



THE HIGHLAND PRINCESS arriving in the Thames yesterday from Belfast. Of about 14,000 tons gross, she is the latest of five motor vessels which have been completed by Messrs. Harland and Wolff for the service of the Nelson Line between this country and South America.



ADMIRAL HORTHY, whose popularity has steadily grown during his ten years as Regent. He served in the Austro-Hungarian Navy for 36 years.



ARCTIC AIR MAIL.—The arrival of the two aeroplanes of the new Arctic Air Mail at a station 120 miles within the Arctic Circle. The return mail took 16 days to reach Winnipeg instead of the two months when mails had to be carried by dog teams to the rail head.

*In this climate  
you must  
drink —*

