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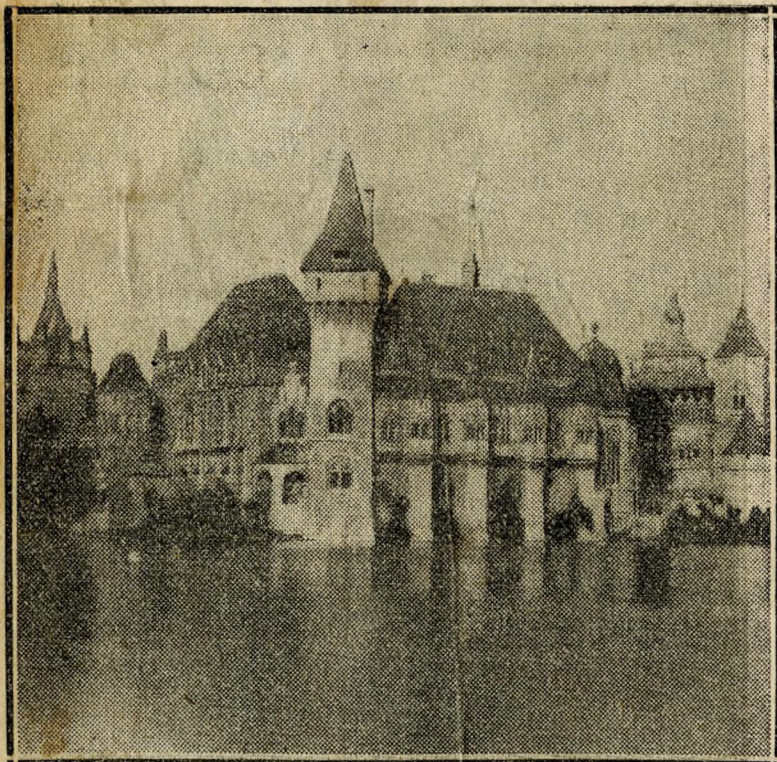
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BUDAPEST RECALLS "MIDDLE AGES"



This Ideal Agricultural Museum is one of the sights of modern Budapest. It is housed in a building which is an extraordinarily successful reconstruction of a Hungarian castle of the Middle Ages. It has been placed in charming surroundings in the public gardens of Budapest.

HUNGARY IN NEED OF A KING

(Paris Times Correspondence)

BUDAPEST.—Last month Archduke Otto, the eldest son of the last King of Hungary, reached his sixteenth birthday, the earliest age at which a King may rule according to an old law of the House of Hapsburg. Members of the Legitimist Party, which advocates the crowning of the Archduke as King of Hungary, formally recognised him as King. This has raised the old question of the throne in Hungary, and every one is busy discussing it. Archduke Otto is at present a schoolboy, and he appears to take very little interest in the crown which his loyal supporters are endeavoring to secure for him. Hungary to-day is officially a kingdom without a King, and while many candidates press their claims Admiral Horthy acts as Regent. The questions of the ultimate fate of the Throne and of the Anschluss, or union of Austria to Germany, go hand in hand, and are the most important elements in Hungarian politics to-day.

The origin of the problem of the Throne is very simple. After the second attempt of the late King Charles to return to Hungary, the Hapsburgs were dethroned by the Hungarian Parliament in order to conform with the requests of the Allied Powers. This transformed several persons into candidates for the Throne. One of them is Archduke Albrecht. His party is called that of the "Free Electors;" it demands that a King should be chosen by the people in much the same fashion that the United States elects a President. Archduke Albrecht has played an important part in the national life of Hungary; he is well-informed, and unquestionably able. Other candidates include the Prince of Teck, Archduke Joseph and his son, and even, it has been somewhat

waggishly suggested, Lord Rothermere's son. The real contest lies between Archduke Albrecht and Archduke Otto.

The latter has the support of Count Apponyi, Hungary's "Grand Old Man," who made an important speech at a Legitimist gathering at Nagy Kanisa recently. The Legitimist Party, he declared, sees in "King" Otto a pillar of national security, and feels that he represents the continuity of Hungary's Constitution, Hungary's rights, and Hungary's national life. He referred also to the aspirations of Archduke Albrecht and declared that an "illegal" candidature would arouse the passion of hundreds of thousands of Hungarians and would be followed by the moral collapse of the nation.

The Albrecht group has replied that Otto is not a Hungarian, while Albrecht's mother is a descendant of the old Hungarian Royal family, and that the Allied Powers will never permit Otto to reign on a basis of legitimacy. If he is to become King, they say, he must be elected. The opinions of Cardinal Seredi, the Primate, who would be essential at the coronation of any King, also is of importance. When it was rumored that the Prime Minister, Count Bethlen, was favoring Albrecht, the Cardinal at once went to see him and informed him that he would crown Otto only. The appointment of Cardinal Seredi was insisted upon by the Holy See, following the death of Cardinal Czernoch. Count Bethlen remains silent. In the Chamber of Deputies recently, in answer to a question, he said very positively that the Government has no intention whatever of "solving by surprise and without the consent of the Hungarian Legislature the problem of the Throne." He hoped that people

would stop disturbing Hungarian public opinion with "such nonsense."

New Port of Budapest.

While the more or less abstract question of the Throne is being discussed, men who go up and down the Danube in ships are discovering the great usefulness of the new free port in Budapest which was opened some weeks ago in presence of the Regent, the Diplomatic Corps and members of the Upper and Lower Chambers.

It had been under construction for five years, and it is the work of Hungarian and French engineers who have co-operated with great success. It was planned even before the World War, and with its completion the trade of the Hungarian capital is likely to expand in a very marked fashion. The port is at the Northern extremity of Csepel Island, one of the largest islands in the Danube in Hungary. In this free port, merchandise can be deposited and moved from ship to ship without payment of Customs duties.

One is always struck by the number of old-world customs that rub shoulders in Hungary with such modern things as the new port in Budapest. There is, for instance, the strict discipline which survives in the Hungarian police force, and which makes it obligatory for any constable to stand as straight as a poker when he hears the Hungarian National Anthem. University students, whose anti-Semitic demonstrations have become such a nuisance that Parliament has had to deal with them, have been taking advantage of this strict discipline. On several occasions when a large police force has approached an unruly demonstration, the students have struck up the National Anthem. The policemen

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have been forced to come to attention and have been rendered immobile and helpless. This remarkable ruse has been tried with success in many parts of Budapest.

A School Scandal.

Another discreditable affair in which students are involved has come to light by the confession of Edwin Alfred Roser, director of a private commercial school, that since 1918 he has sold more than four hundred false "Maturity Examination" certificates for sums ranging from 500 pengó to 1,000 pengó each. "Roser's," which formerly belonged to Jeno Roser, the father of the present director, a highly respected and wealthy citizen, has for some decades been one of the best-known private schools in Budapest, and has acquired a reputation for getting backward boys and slackers safely over their educational hurdles. The present owner confesses that his desire to keep up appearances led him in the first place to accept a sum of money for a "maturity" certificate (without which scholars can neither enter the University nor obtain a situation) which had not been earned.

Another strange story that is being discussed in Budapest is that of a music-hall artiste's claim for £2,000 for his "singing dog." It was just two years ago that Joseph Szilo was walking in Tata Park with his famous "singing dog," Sambo, when he encountered the owner, Count Esterhazy, himself. The Count promptly

shot the apparently unoffending Sambo dead. The music-hall artist claimed that the Count's shot-gun had deprived him of the only singing dog which the world had ever known, and assessed its value at £2,000. The court awarded him £80. The case has dragged on ever since, and the Appeal Court has raised the award to £110. Count Esterhazy is now appealing against this award to the highest tribunal in the land.

Even more strange is an account printed in the newspapers here of a comedy of peasant life that occurred on the banks of the Tisza. Two farm servants who were enamored of each others' wives discussed the matter amicably over a bottle of wine. They agreed that they should simply exchange wives without incurring the expense of divorce, and a feast was arranged at which the whole neighbourhood made merry. The women went to their new homes with their original dowries—a cow and two pigs respectively. But when a month had passed and the new "husbands" had spent the money gained by the sale of the animals disillusionment set in. Both men decided that they greatly preferred their legal partners; so the women returned to their husbands, and the life of the two couples is now reported to be exemplary.