

12



Budapestre vonatkozó újságcikkek

Szerző: Delisle, Arthur L.

Cím: At the gate of the Orient

Forrás: Eagle

Brooklyn

1912. X. 100

(Hely)

(Idő)

(Köt. v. füz.)

Osztályozás

Tárgy

910.2

Hely

Idő

"1912"

Személy

The City of Budapest.

The situation of the City of Budapest was devised by nature in one of her most generous moods, and man has done his part in seconding her intentions. Somewhat like Brooklyn and New York, Budapest consists of two parts, Buda and Pest, separated from each other by the "blue Danube's" broad ribbon, and slenderly joined up again by six threads in the form of bridges.

Buda is a city set on a hill, its foreground broken by the precipitous gellert-hegy (Mount St. Gerard). Mirrored in the calm river, the dismantled citadel that crowns it could—had it speech—tell a tale of struggle of alternately Magyar against Turk and Austrian equal to the most stirring records of history or of fiction. Close by is the steep hill dominated by the royal palace and embellished with flights of stone stairs, buttresses, pilasters, embrasures, arcades, columns and towers, culminating in the ancient coronation Church of St. Matthias. Nearly a thousand years ago it was commenced in Romanesque style, under King Bela IV, and completed in Gothic two centuries later. During the Turkish occupation it was used as a mosque. The background is, in autumn, a gorgeous blaze of polychromatic hills, dotted with pretty villas of light blue, white, yellow green. Standing on one of the bridges that span the river, or on the terrace of the House of Parliament, in the glow of the evening, and lifting the eyes toward Buda, the spectator is spellbound by a scene of panoramic splendor unequalled anywhere in the world. Then after dark, just gaze at the myriad twinkling lights that line the shores and silhouette the outlines of the hills; it is a touch of romance, a bit of Venice and Stockholm, united by the Danube. Buda is old and slow, yet it possesses the stateliness as-

sociated with reverend age. It is the part wherein the prime ministry, the ministries of the interior, of commerce, of finance and of national defense are situated. Every street is historical, and some of the houses bear inscriptions carved in stone, telling of their erection in the early Middle Ages. Here Sultan Solymán and Mustapha Pasha have ruled the proud and stubborn Magyars, and the Cross has bowed low before the conquering Crescent.

Pest is quite flat, spreading out fan-shape from the Belvaros or inner city. Its most beautiful building is St. Stephen's Cathedral, in the Renaissance style, the mere empty shell of which cost \$1,600,000, to say nothing of what has been spent on interior decoration. It has none of the vastness of Gothic cathedrals, or the spaciousness of basilicas like St. John of Lateran or Santa Maria Maggiore, but majesty exhales from its facades. Its design is peculiar—massive, colonnaded, arcaded, balustraded, sculptured, sublimely and solidly rich in ornament. The exquisite lines of its cupola and its campanile form verily an architectural epic.

Gothic Houses of Parliament.

Second to none of the showplaces of Budapest in interest to the American legislator or public-spirited person will be the Gothic Houses of Parliament. This monumental pile was completed so recently as 1896, at a cost of \$8,000,000. Besides the living men who from time to time occupy the building as the makers of their country's laws, no less than 258 men of stone adorn its interior and exterior—statues of statesmen and others who in past ages have won the gratitude of posterity. Its magnificent throne-room (which the King has never condescended to use), grand staircase, gilded

chambers, the rich decoration of the whole building, its frescoes, and the majestic proportions of its exterior render it a worthy home for the Legislature of a nation that can boast of a Constitution nearly as old as that of England.

In the immediate neighborhood are the ministries of justice, of agriculture and of public instruction, as well as of the state-law courts, on whose facade is an inscription in Latin reminding all and sundry that justice should be the cornerstone in the fabric of the nation.

State education in Hungary is more than a century old, and since 1868 has been compulsory; since 1875 the higher education of women has made rapid strides.

Abounds With Museums.

Budapest abounds with museums, libraries, art galleries, scientific institutes, and aids to culture of all kinds. Foremost among these must be placed the National Museum, founded by Count Francis Szechenyi, the great-grandfather of Gladys Vanderbilt's husband. The Academy of Science, another invaluable institution was founded by Count Stephen Szechenyi, son of Count Francis—known in Hungarian history as the Cegnagyobb Magyar (greatest Hungarian). This was the nobleman who, besides devoting his whole fortune to the cause of enlightenment, was the apostle of the emancipation of the serfs. Truly, Gladys Vanderbilt has no cause to feel ashamed of the traditions of the family whose noble name she now bears.

There are the Kisfaludy Society, for the preservation and promotion of the national literature and drama; the Geographical Society, ever active in arranging visits of famous travelers, explorers and discoverers; the Geological Society, to whom the country is greatly indebted for investigations in connection with its mines and oil fields. Of foreign societies whose existence is permitted by the Hungarian Government on account of their cultural value, there are but two—La Societe Francaise, for the study of the

French language and literature, and the British-American Literary Society in Hungary, without mentioning which this article would be incomplete.

Popularly known as the "B. A. L. S.," its presidents ex-officio are the American and British Consuls General (Messrs. Paul Cleveland Nash and Evelyn M. Grant-Duff, C. V. O.); Count Albert Apponyi and His Excellency Francis Kossuth (son of Louis)—both well known in the United States—are honorary presidents; Countess Ladislás Szechenyi (Gladys Vanderbilt) is president of the ladies committee; Dr. A. B. Yolland, an Englishman, is chairman; while the secretary and honorary treasurer is another Englishman with American connections, A. L. Delisle, the present writer. The objects of the society are to further intercourse between Hungary, the British Empire, and the United States of North America, through the dissemination of knowledge of the literature, art, and economic conditions of the respective countries. After their vernacular the Anglo-Saxon tongue is most appreciated by Hungarians; and the education of a Hungarian young woman or man is never considered complete without it has included a study of the English language. German, being the language of the Austrians, though generally understood, is despised. We mention this fact without approving it.

Gay Hungarian Costumes.

The Danube front, known as the Corso, is the best place to study Hungarian costume. In the forenoon, afternoon and evening there is always a gay, moving, chattering crowd of men, fashionably attired ladies, servants and peasant girls in their curious national dress, which differs in color and style according to the county they belong to. Many of the village folk wear a dozen dresses at once, and cut a grotesque, bulging figure as they go swishing along in stockings of bright scarlet, embroidered shoes, be-ribboned hair, full-bodied blouses and aprons of all the colors of the rainbow.

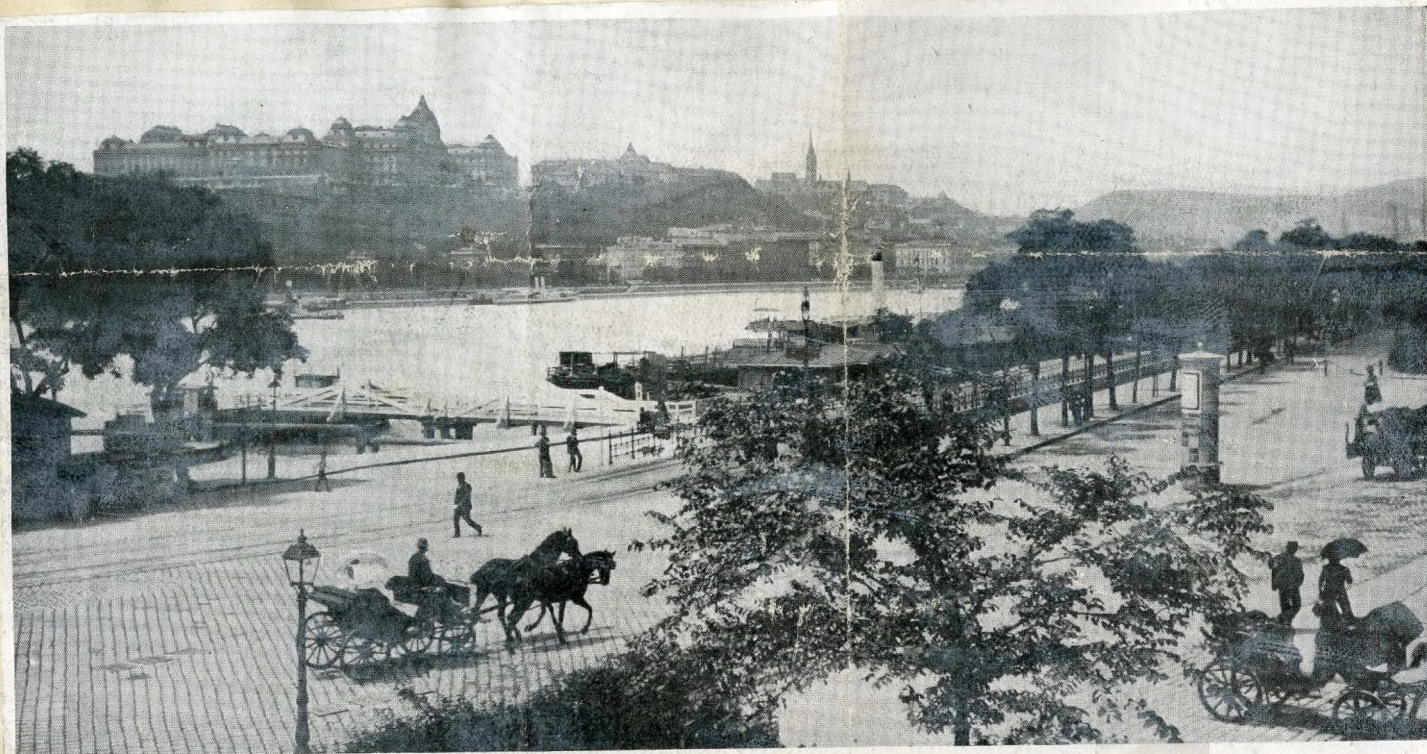
What of the women of Hungary? There seems to be an eradicable notion among the untraveled that in this part of the

world feminine beauty grows wild. I must correct that idea. From long residence in and experience of the country I must say that, beyond a certain voluptuous attractiveness which all Hungarian women possess more or less, and making allowance for exceptions, feminine beauty is not an apparent national asset of the Hungarians.

Other Attractions.

I have said nothing about lovely St. Margaret's Isle, on which \$2,000,000 are to be spent in extra embellishment, of the High Tatra region—the "happy hunting ground," not only of rich Hungarians but of foreigners from many climes, of the baths and mineral springs, whose curative properties have been famous ever since Julius Caesar's legions occupied Pannonia; of the provincial towns and the port of Fiume, whence the Cunard line steamers sail for New York, taking with them the agricultural backbone of the nation, of the industries of the people and the topographical peculiarities of the country. The thousands of things that could be said and ought to be said would fill a thick volume, or at any rate furnish matter for many articles in The Sunday Eagle.

Some Americans' knowledge of Hungary has been acquired by a short visit to Budapest. To such I would say: You have not seen Hungary at all, but only a cosmopolitan city dominated largely by American and English ideas. Here are American stores and English warehouses where no English is spoken nor American nor English goods sold. Articles are marked "Real American" and "Real English," but in most cases don't you believe it. Boxes and phials have on them "Directions for Use" to give the purchaser the impression (a false one) that the contents were made up in London or New York and therefore genuine. The real Hungary and the real Hungarians, he who limits his visit to Budapest has not seen, for these are not to be found in the capital, but in Debreczen, Kolozsvár, Keskemet, Temesvár Szeged and other towns of the Great Plain.



THE ROYAL PALACE AND THE DANUBE, BUDAPEST.

D

12 Budapest főváros

Budapest fekvése a Duna két partján. Története. Épületei hidak, panorama szépsége, az esti világítás régenyessége, egy kicsit Velence egy kicsit Stockholm.

Buda, a török hódoltság. A Parlament leírása, nagyon sok ~~MUSEUM~~ múzeum, tudományos társaságok, angol amerikai társaság, angolul tanulás és tudás, a német nyelvet nem szeretik a magyarok. - Szokások: A Dunaparti korzó élete, a parasztnők ruhái. De eltekintve bizonyos érzéki vonzástól a magyar faj nőinek a szépség nem ~~ELLEN~~ uralkodó tulajdonsága. - Margit sziget, Tatra, a fürdők, Fiume. Az ország százféle érdekessége. Az aki csak Budapestet látta, csak egy kozmopolita várost látott de nem Magyarországot, mely az alföld városaiban található. Bp-en

angol és amerikai árukat árulnak melyek sohasem látták sem Angliát, sem Amerikát.