



Budapestre vonatkozó újságcikkek

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LIFE IN BUDAPEST.

STREET SHOOTINGS AND THEATRE-GOING.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

BELGRADE, JAN. 15.

A British officer who arrived here to-day from Budapest reports that the economic conditions there are steadily worsening. The Hungarian Bolsheviks have demanded and obtained from the Karolyi Government a daily wage of 15 crowns [about 12s. 6d.] for every man in Budapest, whether he is actually employed or idle. As a consequence of this concession the number of the unemployed has doubled. Encouraged by their success, the Bolsheviks next demanded that 80 per cent. of all private fortunes should be confiscated and distributed *pro rata* amongst the proletariat. Karolyi would have consented to this demand, but was prevented from doing so by his colleagues. It is difficult to see, however, how they can hold out long against the threats of the Bolsheviks.

Shooting affrays in the streets are such common occurrences that they pass almost unnoticed. The cost of living in Budapest is beating all records. My informant states that his meals at a restaurant cost, on an average, two pounds good money every time, but for this sum he got enough to satisfy his hunger. Those who can afford the extravagant prices demanded can get practically every luxury they are accustomed to in ordinary times.

Meanwhile the pleasure-loving Hungarians are not deprived of their usual amusement. Although some nervousness undoubtedly prevails amongst the upper and middle classes, the theatres cater nightly for large audiences. My informant attended an excellently presented performance of *Rigoletto*, at which the

boxes were filled with ladies in the richest toilettes. But they had come there in the shabbiest of wraps and shawls, which are the only garments they dare show in the streets.

The British colony in Budapest, which still numbers some hundreds, has been officially advised by our Government to quit Hungary by January 27. Most of them, however, having business interests there, seem inclined to stay on and face any danger that may arise. There are a good many English governesses and teachers in the capital. The teachers have been busier during the last four years than ever previously, owing to—a fact which is worth noting—the increased desire to learn English which has been manifested by the better-class Hungarians ever since the outbreak of war. The British residents in Hungary have never been subjected to internment; in fact, they have been treated more as friends than foes.

Székesfővárosi háziinyomda 1917.