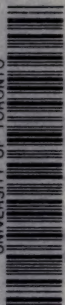


UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



3 1761 01256754 1

Thirring, Gustáv Adolf
West-Hungary

D
651
H7T5

EAST-EUROPEAN PROBLEMS

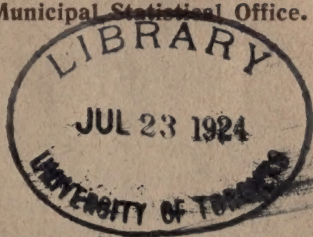
N^o 6.

WEST-HUNGARY.

BY

(Dr.) GUSTAV THIRRING,

Director of the Budapest Municipal Statistical Office.



LONDON

1920

NEW-YORK

LOW, W. DAWSON & SONS

STEIGER & COMP.

BUDAPEST

FERDINAND PFÉIFER (ZEIDLER BROTHERS)

Price : 3 D = 5 Crowns = 6 Cent.

D
651
H7T5



1060719

West-Hungary.

By Dr. GUSTAV THIRRING.

Director of the Budapest Municipal Statistical Office.

The Peace Treaty that the Entente has handed to the Hungarian Delegation allocates a territory of 30 kms. extension to Austria. This considerable part of West-Hungary extends from the Danube to the upper valley of the river Rába, is predominantly mountainous in character, and has a population of 364,052 souls. This decision is not only surprising but incomprehensible as well, since Austria did not belong to the states allied to the Entente, and thus there is no compulsion to reward services rendered — as in the case of Czecho-Slovakia, Roumania and Servia — according to Entente conceptions and secret treaties. Austria was the same foe to the Entente as Hungary and has for five years bravely fought with her against the common enemy. If in spite of it the Entente desires to enrich Austria at the cost of Hungary, there must be some secret motives underlying, which we cannot discern as the Entente does not choose to make them public.

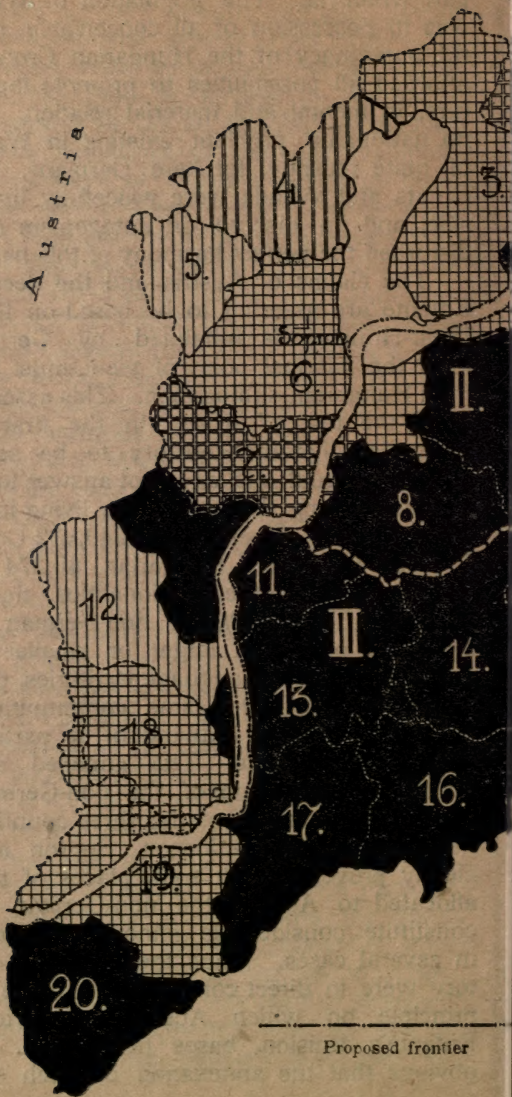
We cannot accept the so often emphasised *nationality principle* as sufficient cause to sever this territory from the country. The fact that its population speaks the same tongue as Austrians is no justification for subjecting it to Austria's rule when we consider that by the application of the self-same principle homogeneous masses of pure Hungarians amounting to four and a half millions have been transferred, like herds of cattle, or,

according to Lord Newton's utterance in the English House of Lords on 30th March: without having obtained a hearing and against their will — to Czecho-Slovakian, Roumanian and Servian sovereignty. We are, then, at a loss to conjecture why the adherence to the so solemnly proclaimed principle should not admit of the really insignificantly small number of German speaking Hungarians in the west of the country — hardly three quarters of a hundred thousand — to remain subjects of the Hungarian State to which they are bound by the sentiments of a thousand-years common past, and to which they are linked by far more important interests than the Hungarians and Germans now to be assigned to Czechs, Roumanians and Serbians are to these alien, in many regards hostile countries.

The Germans of West-Hungary, living in our country since the time of Charles the Great, differ from the Austrian Germans in descent, language and manners, have never united with them in common cause and never desired to do so. The Germans of this district, called „Heanzen” are the descendants of Bavarian and Franconian tribes, and philologically belong to a branch of the Francnians. These Germans continued their peaceful life also after the Hungarian occupation of the country, and were esteemed by our kings to such a degree that, together with the Bessenýós — a people kindred to the Magyars — they were chosen as frontier-guard to defend the country against invasions on the part of Austrian princes. In the course of history it occurred repeatedly that some parts of the country were pledged to Austria for short intervals of time by the powerful oligarchs then in possession of these districts, but as to administration, they continued to form part of Hungary and the pledging of the country was an act of arbitration in which the people's will had no

part whatever. The population of West-Hungary was in possession of all conceivable rights under the supremacy of the Hungarian Crown and was afforded all possibilities to promote their own culture, in mental and material relation. There was no nationality problem existing in West-Hungary till quite recently, for here Germans, Hungarians, Croats and Wends were peacefully living side by side, and no discord or antagonism of any kind disturbed the perfect harmony of this national unity.

The claims of Austria and the decision of the Entente are asserted to be based on the fact that West-Hungary is inhabited by Germans who, from the national point of view, must be liberated from Hungarian subjugation. This assertion cannot stand the test of truth. In the first place, the contention that the territory to be severed is a German lingual one does not answer to truth since we find among the population living in the stretch of country in question only 246,632 Germans, i. e. 71.3%; 44,224 are Hungarian, 49,374 Croat, and 5822 belong to other nationalities, mainly to the Wendish. The 28.7% of non-German population are living partly in larger or smaller Hungarian and Croat isolated language territories, partly mixed with Germans in the same communities to such an extent that the drawing of a partition-line is rendered impossible. The annexed map which marks the proportions of the non-German population in each district of the three counties condemned to secession — Moson, Sopron and Vas — clearly proves that in some places of the territory allocated to Austria the non-German inhabitants constitute considerable minorities, even majorities in several cases. Thus the secession of this territory were in direct contradiction to the nationality principle on which Austria, supported by the Entente's decision, bases her claims. It is quite obvious that the annexation of such mixed lan-



The map of the counties Moson, Sopron, Vas showing the number of the non-German population in the districts.

Number	District	Others than German %
1	Magyaróvár	58 ⁰ / ₀
2	Rajka	44 ⁰ / ₀
3	Nezsider	27 ⁰ / ₀
4	Kismarton	38 ⁰ / ₀
5	Nagymarton	13 ⁰ / ₀
6	Sopron	30 ⁰ / ₀
7	Felsőpulya	50 ⁰ / ₀
8	Csepreg	99 ⁰ / ₀
9	Kapuvár	100 ⁰ / ₀
10	Csorna	100 ⁰ / ₀
11	Kőszeg	51 ⁰ / ₀
12	Felsőőr	20 ⁰ / ₀
13	Szombathely	91 ⁰ / ₀
14	Sárvár	100 ⁰ / ₀
15	Czellödömök	100 ⁰ / ₀
16	Vasvár	100 ⁰ / ₀
17	Körmend	93 ⁰ / ₀
18	Németújvár	25 ⁰ / ₀
19	Szentgotthárd	30 ⁰ / ₀
20	Muraszombat	94 ⁰ / ₀

HUNGARY

y:

I.
II.
III.

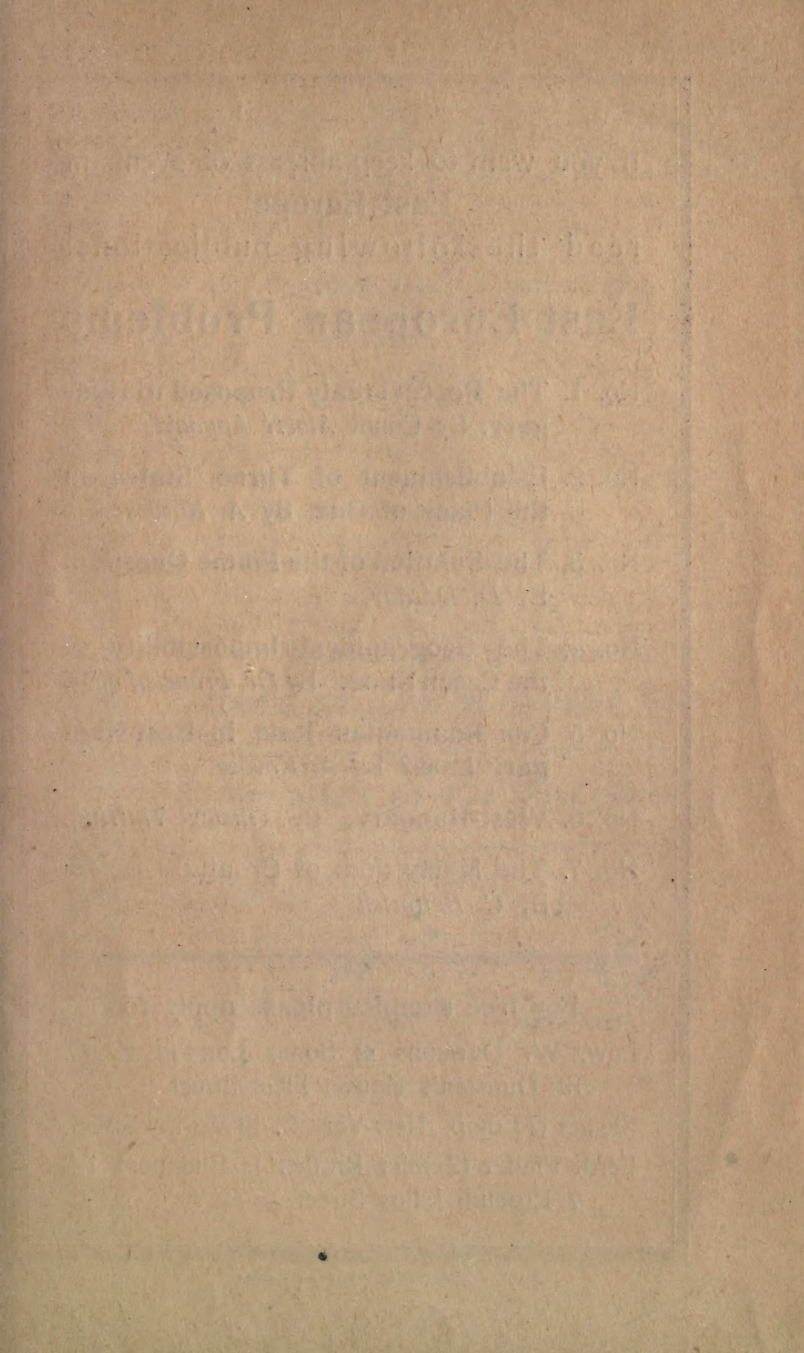


guage territories, which would subject great bulks of Hungarians and Croats to Austrian rule, were to give rise to nationality conditions quite unknown in present Hungary. In the same way as this renders invalid one of the chief arguments on the part of the Austrians — the exclusively German speaking population — just so the pretence of “national liberation” cannot stand its ground. A people, which has unexceptionally for a thousand years preserved its original nationality, language, customs and civilisation, is not in need of liberation, there is no one to bereave it of liberty. If the indictment of Germans in Hungary being exposed to persecution and suppression had been raised in conformity to truth, they should not have been able to immutably maintain their national character for so long a space of time, but would have decreased in numbers and changed their national traits. Yet from the official census derived from the beginning of the 18th century it appears that in West-Hungary *there is not a single community* in which the national status or components would have changed since that time. In an undubitable way it is ascertained that in the communities inhabited by Germans or Croats in 1715 or 1720, these nationalities are living there still to-day, and that up to the present the proportion of the several nationalities in mixed communities remained the same it had been two hundred years ago. These data were published by official quarters in German and Hungarian language, and the sources are open to inspection by any one interested or anxious to investigate. The authenticity and reliability of these data is out of question as they were compiled between 1715 and 1720, at a time when even the notion of the “nationality problem” was still quite unknown and no fraudulent tendency could have influenced the compilation; on the other hand, also the Austrians cannot help admitting that the

communities qualified as German or Croat at that time are thus actually still to-day. The figures for the several nationalities are similar in 1715 and 1910 not only as regards the grand total, but each particular item as well, to such a degree that the unhampered evolution of each nationality and their being safe from any kind of suppression is amply testified by this one fact alone. But many other proofs are existing for the invalidity of the indictment of the Germans' or other nationalities suppression. Any one inquiring into conditions prevailing in West-Hungary will soon be convinced that not only did the non-Magyar population remain unchanged numerically, but that they were enjoying a state of things which must needs ensure their loyalty to their Hungarian fatherland so eagerly manifested in the lapse of thousand years: These nationalities have never had any cause for discontentment and they have never betrayed any such sentiment; in all the liberty wars they have fought side by side with the Magyars for the Magyar fatherland, and their love and fidelity was as natural to them as to the most original Magyar. They succeeded in making their home a centre of well-being and civilisation for the whole country, where people could lead a comfortable, content and happy life. Not only did they achieve this owing to their diligence, honesty and sober mode of living, but in consequence of the liberties granted them by the Hungarian State they were able to freely promote their language and the culture of their ancestors. They guarded their original poetry and music, maintained a German press and literature, and preachers addressed their congregations in their mother-tongue. The language of instruction is German in the greatest part of their schools and the number of illiterates is so insignificant as nowhere in the country. Their colleges and other cultural institutions are on a high level, the middle

schools of Sopron look back upon a past of 300 years, in which time they became the centres of patriotic spirit. This focus of patriotism will be lost to Hungary in consequence of its secession to Austria; our nation shall lose the hitherto so loyal West-Hungary and that country will be despoiled of its patriotic Magyar sentiments and become Austrianised in time. And it is to be feared that the Hungarian and Croat bulks, isolated among the Germans, will be divested of their national traits, so jealously guarded up to the present, under Austrian rule, and thus all that Hungarian civilisation and German and Croat culture, progressing in peaceful cooperation with it, have brought forth in the course of centuries, will be destroyed or, at least, affected to such a degree that it will mean regression of some decades in the people's culture so homogeneously developed hitherto. For this country has in perfect accord developed the culture of the three principal nationalities and has presented the world with such gifts as Francis Liszt, Josef Joachim, Francis Hyrtl, Josef Haydn and Count Stephen Széchenyi.

The annexation of West-Hungary will take place against the people's will and detrimental to their most vital interests. The severance from the mother-country will lead to disastrous consequences for West-Hungary, particularly its flourishing towns, without in the slightest measure ameliorating the state of Austria. West-Hungary clings to Hungary with unbroken faith, recognising that it is to her it owes everything tending to make it happy and satisfied and attained in the course of thousand years. The severance of West-Hungary were a deadly blow to peace, would forever give cause to resentment and unrest, which cannot be the object in view on the part of Austria or the Entente Powers.



If you want to keep abreast of events in
East Europe
read the following publications:

East European Problems

- No. 1. **The Peace-Treaty Proposed to Hungary.** By Count *Albert Apponyi*.
- No. 2. **Establishment of Three States in the Place of One.** By *A. Kovács*.
- No. 3. **The Solution of the Fiume Question.** By *D. Dárday*.
- No. 4. **The Geographical Impossibility of the Czech State.** By *Dr. Francis Fodor*.
- No. 5. **Can Roumanian Rule in East-Hungary Last?** By *A. Kovács*.
- No. 6. **West-Hungary.** By *Gustav Thirring*.
- No. 7. **The Martyrdom of Croatia.** By *C. Battorich*.

For free samples please apply to
Low, W. Dawsons & Sons, London E. C.
St. Dunstan's House, Fleet Street.
Steiger & Comp. New-York E. 49 Murray Street.
Ferd. Pfeifer (Zeidler Brothers), Budapest IV.
7 Kossuth Lajos Street.

D
651
H7T5

Thirring, Gustáv Adolf
West-Hungary

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE
CARDS OR SLIPS FROM THIS POCKET

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO LIBRARY

