

How to avoid War?

EVERY FAIR MINDED MAN WILL AGREE THAT THE ARTICLE: "HUNGARY'S PLACE IN THE SUN", WRITTEN BY THE DISTINGUISHED STATESMAN AND JOURNALIST, VISCOUNT ROTHERMERE, AND PUBLISHED IN THE PARIS EDITION OF "DAILY MAIL" ON TUESDAY, JUNE 21ST., IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. THE WRONGS OF THE SO CALLED TRIANON PEACE TREATY WHEREBY HUNGARY'S TERRITORY WAS REDUCED FROM 125,000 TO 36,000 SQUARE MILES AND WHEREBY OVER 3,500,000 MAGYARS WERE UNJUSTLY CEDED AND EXPOSED TO THE CRUELTY AND UNJUST TREATMENT OF INFERIOR NATIONS, MUST BE REMEDIED IN THE NEAR FUTURE IN ORDER TO AVOID A RENEWED CONFLAGRATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

THREE CHEERS FOR VISCOUNT ROTHERMERE!

volvement is doubtless due to the fidelity with which Hungary, through always protesting against the unfairness of her Peace Treaty, has continued to carry out its terms.

The Little Entente, indeed, is fast losing its international value. Alliances of such a kind, if they are prolonged after the need for them has disappeared, may themselves become perils to international peace. It is seven years this month since the Treaty of Trianon was signed and those who know Central Europe best are beginning to ask whether it would not be wise to adjust some of the obvious shortcomings of that particular Treaty in the calmer spirit which prevails to-day.

TIME HAS COME

I suggest that the time has come for the Allied Powers who signed that arbitrarily drafted instrument — the Treaty of Trianon — to reconsider the frontiers it laid down, in the light of the experience of the past seven years. When an arrangement does not work well after a trial of seven years there is a strong probability that it is inherently unsound.

In modifying the terms of peace imposed on Hungary, the intricately mixed populations of the territories concerned should be consulted. They have had time to make up their minds to which nationality their instincts and interests unite them. The plebiscites to be taken in each area would need to be under the control of the Government of the United States or some other disinterested nation, for in certain of the ceded territories there is abundant evidence that the Hungarian inhabitants do not enjoy the liberty of speech and opinion which the Treaty of Trianon intended to secure to them.

CLEAR THE GROUND IN TIME

The peace of Central Europe is of direct importance to Great Britain. We cannot afford to leave it at the mercy of small and relatively unimportant nations which owe their expansion, and in some cases their existence, to the sacrifices of the Allies in the war. For generations past the Balkans were regarded as the focus of the danger of international conflict. It was there that

the Great War actually broke out. And now, as a result of the insufficient knowledge and hurried decisions of the Allied Peace Delegates, that long-standing Balkan peril has been extended over a much wider area. We ought to root up all the dry grass and dead timber of the Treaty of Trianon before some chance spark sets fire to it. Once the conflagration has started it will be too late.

We can safely show confidence in Hungary. She had only a minor part in provoking the Great War. And while Hungarians fought courageously for the cause with which they were associated, they treated British residents in their country with indulgence throughout the war, allowing them to lead their ordinary lives without internment.

Within a few months of the Armistice, defeated and broken as they were, the Hungarians had enough energy and national spirit left to overthrow Bolshevik tyranny which fastened itself upon their country under the infamous Bela Kun. By so doing they saved Europe from having in its midst a plague-spot from which a campaign of corruption would have steadily been carried on.

Next followed the dismemberment of Hungary by a treaty the severity of which was deplored by many Allied statesmen at the time. It reduced her population from nearly 21,000,000 to 8,000,000, and her territory from 125,000 square miles to 36,000 square miles.

ENGLANDS NATURAL ALLY

Hungary was glad enough to lose some of the peoples, like the Czechs, Croats, and Rumanians, which had been incorporated with her under the Dual Monarchy. But along with them were ceded nearly 3,500,000 Hungarians by race and language and the country's territorial losses involved the sacrifice of her entire supplies of wood, salt, and iron, three substances most essential to a population almost entirely agricultural. So ruthless was the Peace Treaty that Hungary even found herself required to deliver a large quantity of construction timber to Austria, despite the fact that she was reduced to importing timber for her own needs.

In her fulfillment of the Peace Treaty Hungary has given the Allies no trouble. She has balanced her Budget, and to-day her working-class and peasant population is in as prosperous a condition as before the war. Two million acres of ploughland have been purchased by the State from large proprietors and divided among smallholders with the result that no country in Europe has cheaper and better supplies of freshly grown food.

I should like to see our Foreign Office follow the lead which Italy has given to the Powers of Western Europe in holding out a helping hand to Hungary.

Hungary is the natural ally of Britain and France. She has a right to a place in the sun. The attitude of the Hungarian nation towards Germany to-day is one of distrust and

resentment. So long as the memory of the war survives a renewal of her old relations is impossible.

A people like the Hungarians, with a thousand years of national and constitutional tradition behind it; with a mediaeval record as gallant defenders of Europe against the Turk; with a Magna Charta of its own the "Golden Bull" of A. D. 1222, only seven years later in date than our own — is not to be treated like a newly formed Balkan State of upstart institution and inexperienced politicians.



A PRACTICAL STEP

I should like to see our Foreign Secretary show his interest in Hungarian affairs by giving personal attention to the attempt by Rumania to burke an appeal to international arbitration — as provided by the Peace Treaty — on the part of a large number of Hungarian farmers in Transylvania, who have been expropriated of their lands by the Rumanian Government without compensation. This matter has been before the League of Nations for some time. Britain, as one of the signatories of the Treaty of Trianon, has a direct responsibility to see that right is done.

For stabilising and pacific effect, however, no influence is more important in Central Europe than that of the great financial houses of London and New York. They have this matter in their own hands. If they refuse to make money advances to the States which are responsible for maintaining the

present precarious situation there, it will not be long before the result of that policy begins to show itself in the adoption of adjustments and understandings which will greatly reduce the potential causes of war.

Of the alteration of the Peace Treaties by violence or threats there can be no question. Any former Allied or enemy nation which tried to bring about new changes in the map of Europe by force of arms would be opposed — in the interests of self-preservation — by the joint resources of the Allied Powers. But the exercise of wise financial caution by the banking firms which are invoked to help the newly constituted States of Central Europe would have a beneficent and tranquillising force. Reasonable rectifications of frontier difficulties, carried out advisedly and calmly under this influence will strengthen rather than endanger the peace of the world.

JUSTICE FOR HUNGARY

Although nearly every important Canadian Newspaper published some articles advocating justice for our beloved Old Country, we herewith reprint one of the many articles of the Winnipeg Tribune, which appeared as an editorial on the 30th. Dec. 1927.

A considerable group in England which includes Lord Rothermere, Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. J. L. Garvin and others, believes that in certain definite ways the peace treaties instead of insuring peace in Europe have perpetuated the danger of international conflict. This refers more particularly to the Treaty of Trianon, signed in 1920, which deprived Hungary of two-thirds of her former territory and placed over 4,000,000 Magyars — nearly two-fifths of the population — under foreign rule.

The point in which the peace settlement most urgently requires revision, Lord Rothermere contends, is on "the abolition of the three 'Alsace-Lorraines' which the Treaty of Trianon artificially created in Central Europe by ceding to the states of the Little Entente—Czecho-Slovakia, Jugoslavia, and Roumania — compact and homogeneous masses of Hungarian population which naturally belong to the main body of this nation".

It is contended that Hungary, which was brought into the war against her will as part of the Austro-Hungarian nation, has been forced to pay the penalty for her former allies. All her minerals, forests, and her greatest industrial centres were handed to Roumania, Czecho-Slovakia and Serbia, and

millions of her population placed under the governance of people possessed of inferior culture to that of Hungary.

The group urges that this severe blow to Hungary is bound to have its repercussion if some measure of adjustment is not sought. It is not suggested that Hungary shall be restored to her former size. Such a plan would naturally be bitterly opposed by the nations of the Little Entente and make things worse than they are. It is proposed that certain

portions of territory just on the present border of Hungary and

containing solid masses of Magyar people should be handed back.

The amount of territory involved in such a plan would be small but it would restore some 2,000,000 Magyars to the Hungarian rule under which they have lived for a thousand years.



Procession on the Feast of Ascension at Stockholm, Sask.



OUR PICTURES

We herewith publish a few pictures of the New Canadian Handicraft Exposition which was held recently in Winnipeg and at which Exposition the works of native Hungarian craftsmen and women received much favourable comment.

The first picture shows the entrance to the Hungarian booth, displaying magnificent Hungarian embroidery, the second picture is that of a Hungarian dancer and two small children from Hamilton in native costume. The third picture portrays the Hungarian Ladies' Committee, active in organizing the exposition and the fourth is the picture of the exposition's "manager" also in native costume.

