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The Rationalisation of Hungarian Public Administration.
By ZOLTAN MAGYARY. /Budapest:Athenaeum.1932. Bp. 1-21./

Administrative Boundaries and the Rationalization of the Public
Administration. By GYULA HANTOS. With an introduction by Count
P. TELEKI and Professor Z. MAGYARY. /Budapest: Athenaeum.1932.
Pp. 1-25, 56 maps./

The recent visit of Professor Zoltan Magyary, pro-
fessor of public law at the University of Budapest, director
of the Hungarian Institute of Public Administration, and
commissioner for the rationalization of Hungarian public admi-
nistration, established new contacts for American students
of public administration and again emphasized the universality
of the major administrative problems with which the modern
state is confronted.

As a result of the world war, Hungary lost 67
per cent of her territory and 60 per cent of her population.
Instead of 63 counties, the historical basis of the national
system of public administration, there remain 25, of which only
eight possess the old frontiers. The succession states removed
Hungarian officials, who were then placed in the administration
of the diminished state, leading to the discharge of many
permanent members of the administrative body and to loss in
esprit de corps. Retrenchment failed to bring about the necessa-
ry balance, until in 1932 the government sought further re-
duction by a conscious effort to introduce the most modern
techniques of rationalization. The resources of the University,

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the government, and the public service were organized to this end in the establishment of the Institute and the appointment of Professor Magyary as commissioner of rationalization, responsible directly to the prime minister.

Professor Magyary proceeded at once to a "survey" of the existing administrative machine, by means of a complete field study of the central and local agencies. /See Synopsis of the Public Administration of Hungary, by Zoltan Magyary, Budapest, 1932, published in Hungarian./ He was then able to draft a chart showing the 1931 organization in all its ramifications, a diagram reminding one strongly of the many "visual" representations of American state government worked out in the last twenty years. /See Appendix, The Rationalization of Hungarian Public Administration./

The general point of view of the studies pursued by Professor Magyary is illustrated by his conviction that public administration has reached a turning point of the utmost significance, rising from dilettantism to the level of a science, and by his observation that in Hungary public administration, which had been considered before the war as an historical necessity, now is recognized as an economic problem.

The general line of reform which Professor Magyary envisages is the substitution of uniformity for variety /application of the doctrine of the one best way/ under the recognized responsibility of the prime minister, not merely as primus inter pares within the cabinet council, but as the chief executive personally responsible for the economy and

efficiency of the administrative system.

Illustrating the trend which he seeks to adapt to Hungary, Professor Magyary cites the Italian law of December 24, 1925, making the president of the council the head of the government and making other ministers responsible to him as well as to the king; the French decree of March 1, 1932, authorizing the permanent deputy prime minister to direct the *Contrôle des Administrations Publiques*; and the United States Bureau of the Budget.

The work of Gyula Hantos, which was directed jointly by the Institute of Public Administration and the Geographical Institute of the University of Budapest, opens up a new field of first-rate importance which is only slowly winning recognition in the United States. The key to the study is found in the following passage: "Hitherto every branch of the administration has fixed its own territorial distribution without regard for the others. In this respect, the rationalization of public administration postulates as a *sine qua non* that the fixing of inland political boundaries shall be effected by a consensus of all parties concerned and on the basis of uniform principles."

Leonard D. White.

University of Chicago.

The American Political Science Review. 1933.jun. 489.lap.

