

1930

Mme. Guilleaume of Hungary Here To Plead Cause of Adopted Land

Born an Englishwoman, Wife of Hungarian Field
Marshal Appeals to American Women.

N.Y. Sun

By ANABEL PARKER McCANN.

Jan. 28, 1930

A VOICE from Hungary has been raised in the United States but it is the voice of an Englishwoman. It addresses itself to the women of this country in a repetition of that call which was first heard in the early years of the Christian era: "Come over into Macedonia and help us."

Mme. Guilleaume, wife of Field Marshal Arpad Guilleaume, and Vice-President of the World League of Women for Hungary, is here to tell the women of America that in Central Europe, where from ten to fifteen million people are living, as minorities, under governments with which they have no national affiliations and which not infrequently are hostile to them, there exists a condition that is a danger zone to the peace of the world.

"How does it happen that you, an Englishwoman, have come here in behalf of Hungary?" Mme. Guilleaume was asked.

"I have lived for thirty years in Hungary" was the reply "and now, in the distress of her people, I want to give them help. I feel that there is no surer way of doing this than to bring their story to the women of the English speaking world. For, once the world knows of the conditions in Hungary, once the world realizes what a mistake was made in the peace settlements and how grave is the present danger of upheaval, there must develop such a public sentiment that steps will inevitably be taken to better existing conditions so that such an upheaval is avoided."

An International Romance.

Mme. Guilleaume went for a visit to Budapest as a girl and spent several months with a relative living there. During that visit she met the Field Marshal and after her return to England he followed and married her. That is why she is now so thoroughly imbued with sympathy for the people of her adopted homeland. She came to the United States in company with Mme. Rethay, who is President of the World League of Women for Hungary, and has been speaking throughout the middle West where there are large settlements of Hungarians—in Detroit, Chicago, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, &c. On Friday evening, January 31, she will speak in New York under the auspices of the League of Nations Association at a dinner to be given in her honor at the Colony Club at which Beatrice Forbes Robertson Hale will preside.

Mme. Guilleaume reminds Americans that President Wilson's dictum that "self-determination" should be granted all peoples was not carried into effect when Hungary was divided up after the world war. She points out that, without plebiscite, three and a half millions of inhabitants in pre-war Hungary were torn from their fatherland and given over to the governments, among which Hungary was divided. Sixty-seven per cent. of Hungary's former territory was parceled out among four of its neighbors in the following proportions: 36 per cent. to Rumania, 22 per cent. to Czechoslovakia, 7½ per cent. to Yugo-Slavia and 1½ per cent. to Austria. Hence the Hungary of today has only 33 per cent. of her former territory.

Protected Europe.

This disintegration of a nation which for a thousand years was undivided, and which, Mme. Guilleaume explains, during all that time

protected western Europe and its civilization from Mongols and Turks, because of its vast mountain barrier on the northern and eastern boundaries, was a serious enough matter. But the results which have followed in the wake of this slicing have created such discontent among the people of the severed sections that these conditions must either be changed or the economic pressure will finally be such as to start serious disturbances, Mme. Guilleaume said.

The dismembered parts claim that rights guaranteed to them under the



Mme. Millicent Guilleaume wearing Hungarian headress.

peace settlement have not been given them. Even now, Hungarians who have lived all their lives on those territories are being expelled as foreigners.

Her Lost Resources.

By the peace treaty, Hungary lost all her sources of gold, silver and petroleum; she lost 87 per cent. of her forests, 60 per cent. of her farming lands, nearly 67 per cent. of her cattle and more than half of her horses and of her factories. Mme. Guilleaume says that Rumania forbids Hungarian sermons and the singing of Hungarian hymns in the churches, that Rumania has closed down 357 Hungarian schools in six years, has confiscated 50,000 acres belonging to the Hungarian Protestant Church and 7,000 more belonging to the Unitarians and has confiscated, also, 118 daily papers, mostly Hungarian dailies. The other nations have done similar things.

Beyond this, the economic upheaval has been devastating; thousands have been thrown out of employment because of the closing of factories and alienation of farm lands; the entire economic structure has been disrupted, this being partly due to the geographic layout of the country. Mme. Guilleaume recalls the warm welcome received by Louis Kossuth when he came to this country to plead the cause of Hungary at the time of its union with Austria, and feels sure that the women of this country will again interest themselves in Hungary's plight.