

# MAGYAR EXPULSION NOW TOTALS 16,500

## Czech Authorities Say Those Being Removed Had Failed to Seek Citizenship

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BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia, Jan. 19—The Office for Slovak Colonization in Bratislava, which keeps the records of Magyars expelled and sent under the forced labor decree to Bohemia and Moravia, has stated that as of mid-January 16,500 Magyars had been deported from southern Slovakia.

Excluded from deportation under the decree, according to this office, are some 100,000 Magyars, most of them with more than five acres of land, who are registered for exchange to Hungary for Slovak land-holding peasants there. Also excluded are Magyars who have applied for "reslovakization," voluntary surrender of Hungarian language schooling and customs or any claim to minority rights.

The Magyars who are being sent to Bohemia and Moravia, it is stated, are all persons who either did not register for "reslovakization" or whose applications were considered insincere and unacceptable.

The office states that approximately 600 persons daily are sent to Bohemia and Moravia, with orders under the President's decree of 1945, for the working members of the family to engage in compulsory labor for an employer chosen by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Social Welfare. Their wages are the same as those paid for similar work done by any Czechoslovak citizen in the district.

Officials state that those deported are usually paid higher wages than those paid in southern Slovakia.

However, there are a good many instances, it is granted, in which a deported Magyar who had a small holding of land and was partially independent has now been reduced to the status of an agricultural laborer without land.

The Slovak Government still

hopes to move from Slovakia some 200,000 Magyars over and above the estimated 100,000 coming under the exchange of populations agreement with Hungary. It is not considered likely, however, that any such number can be sent to Bohemia and Moravia.

Officials explained that Magyars had not been sent to the Sudeten border regions, but had been sent to take the place of Czechs who have been moved to the Sudeten border regions evacuated by the Sudeten Germans.

The compulsory labor law, it is asserted, has been previously applied in certain purely Slovak districts of eastern Slovakia. The number of Slovaks forced to leave their homes at that time to work in Bohemia and Moravia is estimated by an official of the Slovak colonization office to have been around 8,000.

In all, 180,000 Slovaks are said to have gone at one time or another since the liberation work in Bohemia and Moravia, but a vast majority went voluntarily and many are now returning.