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ITEM No 12390

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7 December 1951
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RUMANIA

EDUCATION

High Schools

Schools At BISTRITA RODNA (Ex NASAUD)

SOURCE ROME: Information received from a foreign citizen recently expelled from Rumania.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: October - November 1951.

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Formerly the following schools existed at BISTRITA RODNA (ex-NASAUD:)

Classical High School for Boys (Liceul Teoretic de Baieti,) Classical High School for Girls (Liceul Teoretic de Fete,) Commercial High School (Liceul Commercial) and an Agricultural High School (Liceul Agricol.)

After the school reforms of 1948 the two classical high schools were united and now there is only one coeducational classical high school (Liceul Teoretic Mixt,) the high school for girls, as it is jokingly called by the students. The Commercial High school has been turned into a school for Economic Administration (Scoala de Administratie Economica) and the Agricultural High School into the Horticultural Junior High School (Scoala Medie Horticola.) Since 1949 the school for administration has been closed down and its students have been included in the Horticultural Junior High School.

All three schools are in the same building at Bulevardul Republicii 8. The director of the Classical Coeducation High School is TITIENE Victor, 35. This school has three sections, i.e. the elementary section with four forms, the second section with three forms (gymnasium) and the lyceum with four forms (from form 8 to 11.) The teaching program comprises: science, mathematics, history, geography, languages, gymnastics, music, political legislation and economics. Apart from this scholastic program, there are courses on political culture, which are held three times a week in the afternoons by teachers sent by the Communist Party. (The Party Headquarters of Bistrita is in strada 26 Ianuarie 32.) Although they are closely watched many students stay away from these political courses.

Since 1949 as mentioned above, the School for Administration has been in liquidation and its students have been attached to the Horticultural Junior High School, which was given prevalence as Bistrita is rather an agricultural and horticultural district. The Horticultural School has 525 students and about 28 teachers. Not more than about 10 or 15, i.e. two per cent of the students have Communist tendencies and among the teachers only the new director PODANI Constantin and his wife Victoria are Communists. None of the other teachers are members of the Party. Up to about three months ago, the director of the Horticultural School was ARSENOVICI Alexander, about 30 or 35, who was very much liked by everybody and taught zootechnics and agriculture. Not being a Party member, he was replaced by PODANI Constantin, about 55 or 60. Before becoming director of this school, PODANI was manager of one of the school's farms.

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Following are the names of the teachers and the subjects taught by them:

GULEA Trifan, 50, a Bessarabian; floriculture and plant-growing;
GAURILUTA Stefan, 55, a Bessarabian; pomiculture and plant-growing;

ENESCU Constantin, 25, an ex-captain of the air force, who was discharged and found employment as a teacher of natural science and mathematics at this school. A treatise he wrote for the school was not published as he is not member of the Party;

CAHAN Ana, a Russian; English, history;

RADULESCU Constantin; stenography;

MUNTEANY Sofia; biology, geology, chemistry;

TRASNEA Iancu; botany;

ANALITA Lupu, plant protection;

BARBAN Viorel, landscape-planning and agrarian improvements;

PODANI Victoria, Rumanian;

LOBICI Ana, mathematics;

LUPU Constantin, (ex-director of the classical high school) history and Rumanian.

As in all schools, there are also supplementary courses for political education, which are held three times a week from 1600 to 1800 hours, by instructors sent by the Party. These instructors are generally manual workers, cobblers, tailors, etc. who always cut poor figures and are ridiculed in their efforts to explain themselves. The Party authorities were informed that these teachers were made fun of and several students were punished with expulsion from school. In some cases punishments were milder and students who had made fun of the speakers were compelled to speak themselves at the next meetings. Naturally, to the distress of the Communist instructors, the speeches made by the students were better than their own and they accused the students of ill will and sabotage. The expositions of the students were well prepared but without any signs of conviction, and the teachers, being unable to convince the youngsters, were soon changed. Several of the commentaries of the students showed evident reactionist tendencies, and these students had to be severely punished by order of Party authorities, despite the sympathy on the part of the school management.

Subjects dealt with in these speeches were: 1) A study on the biography of STALIN; 2) A study on the UTM statutes; 3) The general lines of Marxism; 4) Explanation of the various articles of the "Scanteia of the Youth;" 5) History and comments on the various commemorative holidays, as for example the 9th of May, the fall of BERLIN, Labor Day, the 30th of December, the proclamation of the Rumanian Republic, etc.etc.

EVAL. COMMENT: Probably true.