

MILAN HODŽA

Architect of the Bourgeois Coalition and Adversary of the „Castle“, 1926—1928

Ladislav Lipscher

The Agrarian party was the strongest political force in the First Czechoslovak Republic. One of its most influential figures was the Slovak Milan Hodža, who as minister of agriculture put through the abolition of the agricultural tariffs, with the help of the middle-class coalition. As schools minister he advocated a “constructive nationalism”, with which he hoped to solve the minorities problem. His special brand of political morality and his ambitions for the position of foreign minister made Hodža a decided opponent of the “Castle”. But repeated political affairs finally led to his resignation as minister of instruction. He reached the pinnacle of his political career in the years 1935—1938, when he held the office of Prime Minister.