

# BUSY WORK OF RECONSTRUCTION IN UPPER HUNGARY

BY

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The very great havoc wrought in the last few years by floods, which have increased the deficiencies caused in agricultural production by the war, has stimulated both the Government and the people of the country to immediate action. Sparing no sacrifice, those concerned have set to work on plans to reclaim the flooded areas. The regulation of the so-called Kanyapta Canal in Upper Hungary was undertaken with a view to preventing inundation. *Besides the 105.000 pengő granted last year to fight the floods, the Minister for Agriculture has promised a further sum of 675.000 on condition that the interested parties shall contribute a total of 225.000 pengő in 1942 and 1943.* The farmers of this region have willingly agreed to contribute 9 or 10 pengő per acre towards the sum of 1.000.000 estimated as the cost of reclaiming about 20.000 cadastral yokes.

One problem to which the Ministry for Agriculture is devoting much attention is the regulation of rivers. Here very important measures have been taken and much valuable work is being done. This work consists partly in the regulation of the tributaries of the Danube and the Tisza in Upper Hungary and Subcarpathia. To improve the fords on creeks on the upper reaches of the Danube in Hungary, some regulation of the Bős and Vének sections has been carried out. A more extensive regulation of the Gönyü section has been begun, and on the Medve section the navigable channel has been improved by the removal by dredging of about 21.000 cubic metres of gravel. All these works will cost about half a million pengő. To prevent the Vágduna and the Vág from widening their beds the dykes have been strengthened in five places, and the damaged sluices at

Középvíszó have been repaired. *The work will be continued this year at a cost of 200.000 pengő. This year, too, in order to improve navigation on the upper reaches of the Danube in Hungary, some more regulation will be necessary at Bős, Vének, Szapt and Gönyü. For this work 700.000 pengő have been appropriated.* On the upper reaches of the Tisza flood-dykes have been constructed at Visk, Szászfalu and Bökény, and appliances to protect the river-banks have been made at Hetény, Veléte, Tekeháza and Tiszaújlak. On the Szamos the banks have been strengthened in four places between Sülelmed and Kérsemje, at a cost of 750.000 pengő. In this year's programme of work the protection of river-banks figures with 900.000 pengő. Because it would cost so much, the regulation of the rivers in Subcarpathia is a difficult problem. The expense would, namely, be greater than the profit to agriculture. For this reason no more can be done at present than a local regulation in places where farm-yards, roads and buildings of an artistic value are endangered. *A programme for a general regulation of the rivers here will be elaborated at a later date.*

At Kassa there are two power-stations that, using the water-power of the river Hernád, supply part of the electric current required by the town. A calculation of resources shows that if the mill-race is regulated and a new hydraulic power-station erected, the capacity of the machines generating electricity might be increased to 2.000 h. p. This would mean a further 3.000.000 kilowatts of electric current per annum supplied by the river Hernád. The cost has been estimated at 1.700.000 pengő, of which amount 550.000 pengő would be used for buildings, 470.000 for machinery and 700.000 for the regulation of the mill-race to ensure the re-quired level of water. The 3.000.000 kilowatts of electricity thus obtained from the Hernád would mean at the present price of coal a saving of 120.000 pengő. The regulation of the river by means of embankments would improve the appearance of the town, and, what is most important, would give employment to a large number of workmen for a considerable length of time. About 1.200.000 pengő would be paid out directly or indirectly in wages.

At a recent meeting of the Municipal Council the

question of the exploitation of the magnesite deposits in land owned by the town was discussed. According to expert opinion, the quantity of magnesite owned by the town is so great that it would take centuries to exhaust it. The competent authority is M. Gottfried Hochstätter, bank manager, who, when these areas were restored, was asked by the board of the *Westböhmisches Kaolinwerke* to take over the representation of the firm's interests at their branch in Hungary, the Kassa Magnesite Works. M. Hochstätter gladly accepted, and, with the immediate loan of 300.000 pengő issued by his bank, *it was possible for the works to begin production at their fullest capacity.* The outbreak of war in the autumn of 1939 confronted the works, which employ several hundreds of workmen and officials, with additional problems that in the given circumstances they were unable to cope with. Several thousand pengő were invested in the opening up of a new mine in the Rosalia hill; the existing installations were brought up to date, but no considerable increase of working capacity can be achieved unless the raw material resources of the firm are adequately augmented. Should it be possible to solve the problem of raw materials — which the management confidently hopes to do — the contemplated wide extension of the works will largely contribute towards restoring to Kassa the brisk industrial life in evidence before the first Great War.

*The proposed transfer of the Hokki machine factory from Óbuda to Kassa will also serve to promote the growth of that town's industrial life.* This factory, which employs 100 hands, manufactures charcoal-gas generators. Because of the scarcity of petrol, the use of charcoal-gas for motor vehicles is becoming more general. The Public Works at Kassa already possess lorries driven by it. The machine factory is to be transferred this summer, and will begin work at latest in September. The first large order for machines to cost 100.000 pengő has been received, so that the factory can count on having work to do for a long time to come.

Last year the work of buildings a rest-home for workmen from Budapest was begun at Bánk near Kassa. It is to be used by the workers employd in the Municipal workshops,

and there is every reason to expect that it will be opened this year. *The estimates originally foresaw an outlay of 550.000 pengő, but the amount of that outlay has since grown to 1.400.000, because Budapest has undertaken to contribute a large sum towards laying on water at Bánk, and has also added to the original plans for the rest-home.*

The tradespeople of Kassa are also planning to build a rest-home for aged craftsmen at Bánk. A co-operative society has been formed to provide funds, and the subscription of shares already exceeds expectations. Two yokes of land have been acquired at Bánk for the purposes of this rest-home.

Kassa is planning to build a new public slaughter-house, in order that the meat supplies of the town may meet modern requirements. The *rapporteurs* to the General Veterinary Board helped to draft the memorandum calling for estimates which was published in February. The town has appropriated 2.400.000 pengő for the cost of building the new slaughter-house. This sum will enable a slaughter-house fitted with all modern appliances to be erected.

According to the deputy sheriff's report, this year the County of Abauj-Torna will be able to devote large sums to social welfare work. *Besides its usual contribution of 600.000 pengő, the General Foundation for Family Protection will this year make a further grant of 170.000 pengő, which, together with the balance of 130.000 at the disposal of the social and public welfare foundations in the county, will be the sum that may be used for social and charitable purposes in Abauj-Torna up to 900.000 pengő.*

The *General Board of Social Welfare Supervision* has allowed a considerable sum to be set aside to provide poor school-children in County Abauj-Torna with winter clothing. Through the medium of social welfare workers these poor children will be properly provided with warm clothes and with boots.

The Minister for the Interior has granted County Abauj-Torna a substantial sum for children's soup kitchens. Soup kitchens of this sort have been established at the villages of *Torna, Szepsi, Abaujszántó, Gönc and Szikszó*. Last year the Minister supplied the County of Gömör with the funds

needed to provide enceinte women and nursing mothers and children between the ages of three and eleven with free milk.

The report published by the county veterinary officer throws into high relief the extreme importance and successful results of prophylactic treatment. All in all 42.000 animals received serum injections against anthrax, gangrene, swine fever and swine erysipelas. Only an inconsiderable percentage of the animals treated died in cases where the infection was too virulent or the injections were given too late. Where, on the other hand, the farmers whose stables were infected neglected to have their animals treated with serum, they lost 61% of them. Fortunately farmers are beginning more and more to realize the beneficial effect of serum injections, and a decreasing number of them omit to take preventive measures.

About 3 kilometres from Rimaszombat, on what was formerly known as the *Nyáry Farm*, a new people's academy has been opened by the "*Kalot*" *Agricultural Youth Movement*. It is well known that the aim of this very successful Roman Catholic movement is to educate the agricultural youth, further the evolution of a financially well-situated and virile village population, and bring the young generation up in a Christian and national spirit. There are six other similar institutions in the country, but the new one has a special vocation; for, as its name suggests, the aim of the "*Kalot Settler's Training People's Academy*", which consists of a one year's course, is to teach its pupils the principles of co-operative farming that they may be the future trained leaders of settlement villages. The importance of this lies in the fact that the new Magyar settlement villages to be established on large estates in the course of the Land Reform will be under the direction of competent men. At this new school farming is being carried on on 150 yokes. The staff consists of three teachers, besides whom professors of the Rimaszombat college of agriculture deliver lectures to the students. The school-building is commodious, with fine class and bedrooms, and the farm buildings are adequate and hygienic. It is to be hoped that the number of these successful people's academies will continue to increase.