

POLITICAL ECONOMY

HUNGARY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF "FLUGARUL", NORTH-TRANSYLVANIAN RUMANIAN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, AT KOLOZSVAR

The most powerful of the economic organizations of the Rumanians of Hungary, the "Flugarul" Central Co-operative Society, on August 1st. held its ordinary annual General Assembly at Kolozsvár.

On the occasion of the General Assembly delegates arrived in Kolozsvár from all parts of Transylvania, 152 of the 240 branches having sent representatives. The assembly hall of Albina House was chosen as the scene of the General Assembly. The chair was taken by Emil Hatieganu, who in his inaugural address pointed out that the co-operative movement played an important role in the life of the Rumanians of Northern Transylvania, noting in this connection that the activity of the "Flugarul" was evidence of the virility of the co-operative system and of the goodwill and generosity of the Hungarian Government. What the members of the "Flugarul" had in view was not the accumulation of capital; their object being to assist one another reciprocally.

After the inaugural address M. Buzea, Managing-Director of the Co-operative Society, presented his report. In 1942 the Society had obtained permission to include in the co-operative movement also the so-called "Partes" county (certain areas of Hungary proper incorporated in Transylvania). Successful negotiations had led to the enrolment in the Society of 44 new branch-co-operatives. Last year too negotiations had been continued with the director of the Nagyenyed branch of the "Hangya" Co-operative Society; and substantial results had already been achieved.

Speaking of corn imports, the report established the fact that so far the Society had succeeded in importing 119 truck-loads of millet, 13 truck-loads of wheat and 50 truck-loads of maize. There had been an increase in the Society's turn-over, and the balance-sheet closed per December 31st., 1942, showed profits on operations.

INVENTION OF A HUNGARIAN ENGINEER

Alphonso Pálffy, a young Hungarian engineer, a year ago, after a long period of study and research, constructed a small dynamo possessing a capacity 40% in excess of that of all previous dynamos. The new dynamo has created a considerable stir in Hungarian technical circles. In order to test the capacity of the novel construction, the dynamo was sent to the Hungarian Technological Institute, where the official control mensuration confirmed the correctness of Pálffy's data. However, seeing that professional circles still adopted an attitude of scepticism towards the new dynamo, Pálffy constructed a second apparatus many times larger than the first; and the new and larger dynamo is said to have disposed of the objection that in the case of a small apparatus mensuration cannot possibly be exact. Some days ago, in the same Hungarian Technological Institute, a commission of technical experts and university professors once more undertook measurements to test the second, larger dynamo and discovered that those measurements not only corresponded to the results obtained with the first dynamo, but actually exceeded them by some 7%. The capacity of the new apparatus is therefore 47% in excess of that of all dynamos previously in use, — a fact economically of a revolutionary character.

It is reported that the establishment of a company — Pálffy & Co. Ltd. — is in progress which will have as its object the manufacture of dynamos constructed on the model of the dynamo described above. No shares may be subscribed by private individuals, only by fictitious persons and States. A quota of shares has been reserved for the Axis Powers. However, seeing that the new dynamo is calculated to prove beneficial to humanity at large, further lots of shares will be available for subscription after the war.

The new dynamo, in connection with which a special meed of thanks is due to Dr. Joseph Varga, former Minister for Commerce and Industry, and to the wholesale merchant Francis Szűcs, who have both rendered signal services in helping to assure the success of the invention, will shortly be exhibited to representatives of the Press and to professional circles.

ECONOMIC NEWS FROM RUMANIA

In its July 28th. issue, the "Argus", a commercial daily, published a statistical statement relating to the Rumanian price-level which outlines the development as from 1916 of the price-level of the most important consumption goods. Taking as our basis (= 100) the prices in force in August, 1916, which for Rumania was the last month of peace, we are able to record the following course of development: —

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August, 1916 August, 1939 August, 1943

Sugar	100	3200	13,510
Table oil	100	3200	14,756
Salt	100	4200	4,400

Average 100 3533 10,890

Rice	100	5000	31,950
Coffee	100	8000	16,410
Tea	100	5000	25,050
Maslin	100	4000	25,940

Average 100 5400 24,830

Beans	100	3500	5,300
Bread	100	3600	15,680
Flour	100	2200	7,021
Corn flour	100	3800	13,400
Meat	100	2600	7,302
Potatoes	100	4200	10,140
Milk	100	2300	13,771
Butter	100	3700	17,180
Lard	100	3100	16,800
Curds	100	3350	27,400
Fish	100	3800	7,030

Average 100 3286 12,820

Wine	100	2600	12,700
"Cujka"	100	3100	14,100
Beer	100	4600	6,810
Spirit	100	3350	26,820

Average 100 3887 16,107

Clothing	100	5300	36,130
Shirts	100	5000	23,135
Shoes	100	4350	26,600
Stockings	100	4200	15,840
Hats	100	4000	13,600
Frieze	100	4000	14,130
Cotton	100	4500	7,100

Average 100 4480 17,512

House-rent	100	6200	19,348
Soap	100	2000	15,770
Firewood	100	4400	22,493
Timber	100	3700	14,540

<i>Paraffin</i>	100	5000	11,400
<i>Petrol</i>	100	3800	17,580
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<i>Average</i>	100	4013	16,855
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<i>General Mean Average Price-Level</i>	100	4045	17,297
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Minister *Titus Dragos*, head of the Rumanianization Department, recently made public his report of the activity of the National Rumanianization Bureau.

One of the preliminary measures was the nationalization, on March 28th., 1941, of all urban real estate in the possession of Jewish individuals or fictitious persons. The fact that when the expropriation was carried out no steps had yet been taken to designate the administrative organs responsible of the execution of the measure, as well as several other circumstances, resulted in the 30,701 items of urban property coming under the provisions of the Law not being yet taken possession of by the National Rumanianization Bureau until December 6th., 1941.

By that date (December 6th.), however, all the items of real estate in question had been taken over by the Rumanianization Bureau, the legal formalities in respect of 22,910 items having already been complied with.

Down to April 23rd., 1942, the 5 Bucharest district directorates of the *National Rumanianization Bureau* had rented, out of the real estate which had passed into their possession, 1803 flats and 18 business premises, and by October 16th. a further 2393 flats and 119 business premises.

Meanwhile, in the provinces, the county commissions had rented 9145 flats and 2852 business premises. The object of the *National Rumanianization Bureau* in taking this procedure was to provide Rumanians with flats and business premises at as low rates as possible.

The National Rumanianization Bureau placed 507 items of provincial and 167 items of urban (Bucharest) real estate at the disposal of State institutions not possessing premises of their own. In the same period — between December 6th., 1941, and December 6th., 1942 — the assets left behind by repatriated Germans and Bulgarians, as well as abandoned real estate, were also included in the scheme. The Law promulgated on July 3rd., 1942, having expropriated Jewish property, the National Rumanianization Bureau has so far taken under its own management 291 items of property, leasing or renting respectively some 25% of the same to public institutions and the rest to private institutions.

After the re-occupation of *Northern Bukovina* and *Bessarabia*, on September 4th., 1941, the legislature extended the validity of the laws expropriating Jewish property also to the re-incorporated territories. As a consequence, in *Bessarabia* 37,769 items of real estate passed into the hands of the State; of these 4111 were in a state of absolute dilapidation, 33,658 being in good condition or in a state permitting of their being repaired.

In *Northern Bukovina* 22,155 items of real estate came into the possession of the National Rumanization Bureau.

Down to December 6th., 1941, the agrarian property administered by the National Rumanianization Bureau consisted of Jewish estates expropriated under the Laws (Decret-Lage) of October 5th., 1940 and October 17th., 1940, respectively, and of the property left behind them by the re-patriated Germans and Bulgarians. In terms of a decision taken on July 28th., 1941, by an inter-departmental commission, the property and country estates of the former German and Bulgarian nationals who had been repatriated were placed under the jurisdiction of the governmental settlements commission.

After December 6th., 1941, the National Rumanianization Bureau obtained possession of the Jewish dwelling-houses and mansions found in the villages, together with all messuages belonging to them.

For a long time the regulations in force, particularly in respect of agrarian property, did nothing to enhance the earning power of the leaseholds; indeed, they contributed on the contrary to a rapid exhaustion of that power. The deciding factor in this connection was the Organization Law promulgated on May 3rd., 1941, which treated lessees in a very niggardly manner in respect of the period of lease, which was provisionally fixed at one year.

It is only natural that in consequence the lessees used every effort to recover every cent of the capital invested during the one year at their disposal and to squeeze as much profit as possible out of both the live stock and the dead capital.

This lack of discernment on the part of the legislature led in a very short time to the complete exploitation of the expropriated agrarian estates, so that a new Law had to be drafted prolonging the period of lease to two years and ensuring the lessees the right to prolong the lease, provided they managed the leaseholds judiciously and made useful investments on them.

As a result of the provisions of the Laws expropriating Jewish property, in the "Regat" and in Transylvania 57,447, in *Bessarabia* 395,722 and in *Northern Bukovina* 35,185 hectares of land came into the possession of the State.

SLOVAKIA

NEW METHODS IN SLOVAKIA FOR CONTROL OF IRON AND STEEL

The President of the Supreme Bureau of Public Supplies has issued a notice relating to the adjustment of dealings in steel and iron. In terms of this notice those persons and undertakings who or which produce, manufacture, work over or sell the steel and iron material enumerated in the notice, may not produce, manufacture, sell or deliver such goods unless they previously obtain a written permit from the Supreme Bureau of Public Supplies. In cases where neither the State nor the local authorities or establishments enumerated in the notice are concerned, such permits may be issued by the competent Chamber of Commerce and Industry too. Permits for the use of the authorities or bodies or establishments just referred to may be issued only by the Supreme Bureau of Public Supplies. All applications must be duly motivated, — separately in the case of each of the groups of iron and steel materials in question. The notice requires all those persons and undertakings who or which produce, manufacture or keep in stock more than 1000 kilogrammes of steel and iron materials a month, to report their stocks monthly both to the Supreme Bureau of Public Supplies and to the competent Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Chambers of Commerce and Industry may not accept or certify respectively orders for half-finished or fully manufactured goods unless they have previously obtained from the Bureau of Public Supplies its approval in writing. Orders for foreign countries not yet delivered can only be delivered with the previous approval of the Bureau of Public Supplies. The new order in respect of dealings in iron and steel materials came into force immediately after publication.

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