

HUNGARIAN TRANSYLVANIA AT WORK

BY

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Now that the summer months are over, the work of construction has been vigorously resumed in the re-incorporated districts of Transylvania. The co-operative movement, the free development of which was impeded by the foreign rulers of the province for two decades by every available means, has since a year shown an unparalleled upswing. Practically no day passes without some new scheme for the formation of a co-operative society being reported to the Central Office of the Co-operative Alliance at Kolozsvár.

The first thing to be recorded in this connection is that the *Co-operative Starch Factory at Csikszentsimon* — established with the object of manufacturing and marketing the surplus supplies of potatoes of Széklerland — will be able to begin operations early in October. At *Csikfalva* a *cheese factory with an up-to-date plant has been established* and has already begun operations. Near the factory is an establishment for the breeding and fattening of pure-breed pigs where the by-products obtained in the factory are to be employed to feed the animals of pure breed being reared. At *Székelyudvarhely* the persons forming a co-operative society have set themselves a magnificent object, — *having established a society for the production of agricultural spirit* the share capital of which already subscribed and paid up amounts to 30.000 pengő. With substantial financial aid from the Central Office of Co-operative Societies this new formation has purchased the Székelyudvarhely agricultural spirit distillery for the sum of 170.000 pengő. In this big establishment a part of the surplus supplies of potatoes of the farmers of County Udvarhely will be utilised for the manu-

facture of spirit. The shareholders of the Co-operative Society are the most prominent smallholders of the county. The by-products obtained at the factory will be employed here too to feed animals. A serious movement has been started also for the purpose of *re-organising the Szentkeresztbánya ironworks on a co-operative basis*. The Kolozsvár Credit and Agrarian Co-operative Society proposes to establish a liqueur factory and has already taken the steps required for that purpose. At Sepsiszentgyörgy the establishment of a general co-operative society for the marketing of agricultural produce is in progress. The new Society proposes to undertake the procural of seeds for sowing, the marketing of live stock, the collection and sale of clover seeds and in general the marketing of agrarian produce.* Recently there was established also the Co-operative Society of Kolozsvár Fuel Dealers for the Purchase and Sale of Goods in which 27 Kolozsvár dealers in firewood are interested. So far 22.500 pengő have been subscribed towards the share capital.

The Transylvanian Economic Council has thoroughly investigated the schemes relating to the furtherance of the cultivation of the fibrous plants suitable for the improvement of the pasture-lands of the re-incorporated districts of Transylvania and for industrial manufacture. During the discussions relating to the various suggestions there developed a direct co-operation with the Transylvanian branch of the Ministry of Agriculture, the management of which willingly placed its services at the disposal of the Economic Council. As a result of this co-operation steps have been taken to provide that *before the current year is over at least two pastures in each Transylvanian county shall be improved in a model manner*. Enormous possibilities are to hand also in connection with the cultivation in Transylvania of fibrous plants. For the purpose of furthering the production compe-

* At *Medgyesfalva* the „Hangya” Central Co-operative Society of Transylvania has established *a large undertaking for the transport of vegetables* which will begin operations in the near future.

tent organs are making contracts with large numbers of Transylvanian producers. The Székelykeresztur "Voluntas" textile establishment in 1941 cultivated flax with most favourable results over an area of 480 yokes. In the event of obtaining a favourable contract this undertaking proposes next year to grow flax already over an area of 800—1000 yokes. *A whole network of similar contracts is being employed to encourage surplus production also among the farmers of the counties of Háromszék and Csik.* Another fibrous plant of just as great importance is hemp, for the cultivation of which there are very large areas of suitable soil in the counties of Szolnok-Doboka, Beszterce-Naszöd and Maros-torda. In order to encourage the farmers concerned to increase their production, the Economic Council of Transylvania has got into touch with the Sepsiszentgyörgy Textile Works, which latter undertaking has expressed its readiness by the help of advantageous contracts to further the cultivation of hemp in Transylvania.

There has been a further upswing also in the field of industrialisation. One of the main problems is the electrification of Széklerland; and the solution of that problem has been very considerably furthered by *the establishment of the Gyergyó Electric Works Ltd.* The water-power station which it is proposed to construct will ensure the provision of the electric energy required in the Gyergyó Valley and will be the starting-point of the work of industrialising the whole region. The co-operation in the work of organisation of the Transylvanian Industrial Labour Organisation Institute has also been secured. *The share capital of the joint-stock company is 1.500.000 pengő;* and the credits required for the work of construction will be procured by the above-mentioned Labour Organisation Institute. This Institute is in any case working systematically in favour of an up-to-date extension of the sawing and wood-manufacturing establishments kept in operation by the joint tenancies of Széklerland.

The Department of Industry is within the framework of a novel loan action allotting to the Central Co-operative

Society of Artisans and Craftsmen (the so-called "IOKSz") *several million pengő to be granted in the form of credits to small and mediumsized industrial establishments and to industrial co-operative societies of Transylvania.* The only condition stipulated by the Department of Industry in respect of the amount of credit grantable is that no one plant may receive loans exceeding 20.000 pengő in amount. The object is evidently to ensure that as large a number as possible of Transylvanian small establishments shall share in the benefits of the action.

In Csik County, with the support of the National Hungarian Tourist Traffic Office, a large-scale scheme of building is being carried out. The plans for the *gigantic hotel at Csikszereda* were ready already before the end of the summer; and a beginning is to be made shortly with the work of construction. At *Hargitafürdő* the work of building a *model* hotel is already in full swing. And several hundred navvies are already at work constructing the road leading from the Tolvajostető to Hargitafürdő.

Apart from furthering the material upswing of the re-incorporated districts of Transylvania, the Government is still devoting particular care to the work of advancing the level of intellectual life and of professional education. On September 12th., for instance, M. Joseph Varga, Minister for Commerce and Industry, and Secretary of State M. Stephen Horthy de Nagybánya, President of the Hungarian State Railways, attended the opening of *the Hungarian State Railways' Boys' Boarding School and Orphanage at Szatmárnémeti* the task of which is to educate and instruct the children of the railway employees of that part of the country. *Before long the work of building the Mining School at Nagybánya will also be completed.* The authorities had already during the days of Rumanian rule proposed to erect a large two-storied building that was to have served as county hall. As so often happens in Rumania, the continuation of the work of constructing the half-finished building was abandoned for years, so that it was left to the Hungarian

authorities to complete the work of building begun so long ago. The gigantic building is now to be employed to accommodate the joint Pécs and Nagybánya school of mining. *The Pécs school of mining has already begun the work of removing to Nagybánya.*

At the same town, Nagybánya, the authorities have opened a *Popular Education Seminar*, which has been attended by the teachers, notaries and clergymen of the county. The lecturers have explained the objects, material and methods of popular education (university extension), and very great interest has been shown by the persons attending the seminar.

The municipal council of the royal free borough of Debrecen has decided that in commemoration of the return to the mother-country of the re-incorporated districts of Transylvania *scholarships of 1500 pengő each shall be granted* to three Transylvanian students not possessing independent means who are studying during the school year 1941—42 in the Debrecen Stephen Tisza University of Sciences.