

CONSTRUCTIVE WORK IN TRANSYLVANIA

BY

LADISLAS SZENCEI

During the Rumanian era the municipal undertakings in the Transylvanian towns made so little progress and received so little encouragement that after the Vienna Award the Hungarian authorities found them in a deplorable state of absolute neglect and backwardness. Now that the water and gas works in Kolozsvár have been modernized, attention is being devoted to the slaughterhouse. *At the general meeting of the Municipal Corporation it was decided to build a new furnace in the slaughter-house, for which a loan of 1.600.000 pengő will be required.* Negotiations for this loan have been satisfactorily concluded. The State is to lend the town 1.100.000 pengő and the O.T.I. (Social Insurance Institute) will furnish the other 500.000.

At the same meeting it was resolved to build a *picture-gallery*. The Ministry of Education will contribute 60.000 pengő, the Municipality and the inhabitants of the city have promised 90.000. New slaughter-houses are being built at Szováta and Szászrégen. The slaughter-house at the latter place will work for exportation, and the Government has issued a loan of 300.000 pengő for its construction. Szováta has also received a loan of 60.000 pengő for the construction of the new slaughter-house there.

The work of improving healthconditions in Transylvania is also going on at great speed. The M. O. N. E. (National Union of Hungarian Physicians) has decided to build a modern health institute that will cost several thousand pengő at *Csikszentdomokos*. In a short time another health institute will be finished at *Marosvásárhely*. This new health institute will be a two-storied building and will contain a dentistry department for school-children, consulting-rooms for sufferers from pulmonary and venereal

diseases, a bacteriological laboratory, and Green Cross and public welfare departments. The whole is to cost nearly 300.000 pengő, almost all of which is now available for the purpose. In a beautiful valley near *Kovászna in County Háromszék* a holiday resort called Fairy Valley is being built that will prove a Paradise for skiers. The idea of creating a holiday resort here originated in an offer made by the Parish Council of Kovászna with a view to attracting visitors to the district. This village, which is famous for its mineral springs and mud-baths, offered 164 sites for the purpose of creating a spa, on condition that the recipients undertook to build villas on the sites within a year's time. There were over 200 applicants. The work of parcelling out the sites and planning the grounds is progressing rapidly, so that as soon as it has been decided who are to have them, building can be begun immediately. Building will not be held up by a lack of materials, since the village is able to provide stone and timber, and a large kiln has been set up in the neighbourhood to manufacture the bricks required. One condition stipulated by the village is that only Szekler craftsmen may be employed to build the villas. This will provide the Szeklers in the district with profitable employment. Owners need have no anxiety about the quality of the work, *for the Szekler bricklayers and masons who built about half of the houses in Bucharest will be able to cope with the task of building these villas.* The village has committed itself to installing the villas with running water and electricity. One of the first applicants for a site was the *General Protection of Children League, which intends to erect a sanatorium for children with 200 beds at Fairy Valley.* The League has set aside 280.000 pengő for this purpose. Other applicants were *the Society of Gendarme Officers, the Baross Alliance, the M. O. V. E., the Ex-servicemen's Alliance, and the O. T. I.* All of them propose building commodious rest-homes.

The village of Kovászna has set to work rapidly to solve the problem of communications. Roads are being constructed, and the problem of a railway station for the new spa have been laid. By the time the work of building begins the whole network of streets will be ready. In the exact centre of

Fairy Valley there is to be an open-air swimming-pool covering an acre of land. Opposite it there is to be a pavillion for those who take the waters. All this, which is going to cost a great deal, is to be financed by the village of Kovászna. The new resort will be open summer and winter, and is likely to prove a paradise for those who go in for winter sports. A ski-run 1600 metres long with a drop of 400 metres is also being constructed near the village. The funicular railway on the Kommando mountain will be utilized to carry skiers, so that they will be able to reach great heights conveniently, as they do at the winter sport resorts in Switzerland. After the Mátra and the Kékes, Fairy Valley will be the third best skiing place in Hungary.

But Kovászna is not content with the construction of Fairy Valley alone. *The mud-baths, which were filled up by the Rumanians with more than a thousand cart-loads of stones, are to be cleared. For this work the expert knowledge of the famous geologist, Dr. Francis Pávay-Vajna, has been enlisted. At the time these baths were filled up to enable a Rumanian business man to set up a carbonic acid factory there.* Cheap carbonic acid meant more to him than this wonder of nature that had brought healing to many thousands of sufferers. Now, under the direction of the famous geologist, the Pokolsár mud-baths at Kovászna are to be restored. The village has asked for and received the loan of 400.000 pengő from the Social Insurance Institute for the work of restoration. In the very middle of a world war Kovászna, that virile Szekler community, has begun a series of public works that impose a burden of several million pengő on its budget.