

RE-CONSTRUCTION WORK IN TRANSYLVANIA

BY

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The districts of Transylvania restored to the mother-country are taking part on an increased scale in the intensive work in evidence in the whole of Hungary. The attention of the persons in authority is riveted in particular upon one of the most important problems awaiting a solution — that of restoring and improving communications. The work of constructing the Szeretfalva—Déda line — the railway line ensuring direct connection between Széklerland and the mother-country — has already made such progress that it will be possible already this year to place this railway line of such vital importance at the service of the general public. *After the Szeretfalva—Déda line has been completed it is proposed to begin the work of building the railway line between Csikszereda and Székelyudvarhely; the opening of this line for public traffic is bound to contribute very considerably to further the economic prosperity of Széklerland. At the same time a new automobile road is to be built in County Udvarhely at a cost of 3,200,000 pengő.*

The various county authorities are also participating to an increased extent in the work of improving the system of communications. *A single county — the dismembered County of Kolozs — has appropriated the sum of 500,000 pengő to cover the costs of repairing the county roads.* The technical survey has been completed; and indeed the various engineering operations are already in full progress. Very

shortly the work of rolling the sections of the roads leading to the seats of the several hundreds will be begun; and the road metal required for the purpose has already been delivered at the places appointed for the purpose. Great importance attaches to the road-building operations, not only as a means of improving the system of communications, but also as a source of great advantage to the populations of the villages concerned, seeing that these operations provide unlimited possibilities of labour for those who are prepared to undertake the work of road-construction.

The town of Kolozsvár has also appropriated the sum of 500,000 pengő to cover the initial cost of repairing the town roads. The actual amount foreseen for this purpose is — to be quite exact — 563,000 pengő; out of this amount 173,000 pengő are to be devoted to the upkeep of the paved streets, the sum of 120,000 pengő to be employed for the re-paving of certain streets, while the sum of 158,000 pengő is to be appropriated for the construction of pavements and asphalt roads.

It will be worth our while to glance for a moment at the enormous work performed in a period embracing altogether not quite nine months by the "ERIMI" (Industrial Labour Organisation Institute of Transylvania). In an article contributed to a Budapest economic journal Dr. Géza Bornemisza, former Minister for Commerce, *has estimated at 12,000,000 pengő the amount invested in Transylvania by the said Labour Organisation Institute.* The Institute provided capital for the exploitation of the water energy of the "Gyilkos-tó" (Murderous Lake) and the "Békásszoros" (Frog Defile), for the electrification of the Lower Csík Basin and for the full development of the large power plant at Beszterce. Recently the "ERIMI" provided the means required for the establishment of the Olt District Electric Co. Ltd. The object of the establishment of this undertaking

is to provide with electric current Tusnád and several villages in the Lower Csík District. The Olt District Electric Co. Ltd. is to establish a hydro-electric power plant in the vicinity of Tusnád to utilize the water energy provided by the river Olt. *The cost of the establishment of this largescale undertaking will amount to 1,000,000 pengő.* The quota of this amount to be supplied by the "ERIMI" is 650,000 pengő; the remainder is to be provided by persons financially interested in the undertaking.

The industrial life of Kolozsvár has received the addition of two undertakings. Dr. Ladislas Farkas, of Budapest, has transferred his textile establishment to Kolozsvár. *The "ERIMI" has advanced a loan of 200,000 pengő for the furtherance of the undertaking.* Joseph Józsa, of Budapest, is establishing at Kolozsvár, a cork factory, for the purpose of which *the "ERIMI" has also advanced a loan — of 60,000 pengő.* During the period of Rumanian occupation the Fanto Works were in operation at Telegd, in County Bihar. The undertaking is at present being wound up; and its plant has been taken over by the Bihar Chemical and Mineral Industry Co. Ltd., the object in view being the manufacture of the raw material to hand in the asphalt mine at Dermatataros in the vicinity. The new undertaking has received assistance from the "ERIMI" in the form of a loan of 70,000 pengő.

The Szilágy Region is far-famed as a fruit-growing district. To facilitate the industrial utilization of the fruit crop of the Szilágy Region, *it has been decided to build a jam and fruit-preserve factory; the works undertaken for the purpose are already in so advanced a stage that it will in all probability be possible to manufacture the yield of this year's crop.*

The Ministry for Industry reports *that it has been decided to erect large-scale establishments for the*

manufacture of artificial fibre. Three factories of the kind are under construction — one each at Marosvásárhely, Kézdivásárhely and Székelyudvarhely respectively. *The sums foreseen in the building estimates amount altogether to 900,000 pengő.*

Despite the difficulties impeding the procural of raw materials Dr. Joseph Varga, Minister for Industry, has proved able to ensure the carrying into effect of the more important schemes proposed by other Departments. The greatest interest attaches in this connection to the new agrarian schools which the Department of Agriculture proposes to establish; the building of these institutes has either been begun or is to be begun in the spring.

A large-scale secondary agrarian school and a dairy farming professional school are being built at Marosvásárhely; the aggregate cost involved — including the expenditure required for the erection of the experimental institutes attached to the schools — will amount altogether to 3,000,000 pengő. A secondary-grade agrarian school and home are being built at Sepsiszentgyörgy at a cost of 600,000 pengő.

We see, then, that the economic life of Transylvania is taking an intensive part in the many-sided activity being carried on for the exploitation of the economic treasures of the Hungary territorially aggrandized in recent years.