

CONSTRUCTIVE WORK IN TRANSYLVANIA

BY

LADISLAS SZENCZEI

On 5th September a meeting was held in the assembly room of the *Kolozsvár Chamber of Commerce and Industry* by the committee of the Transylvanian Labour Organizing Institute, which has played so great a role in promoting the development of the restored parts of Transylvania. Amongst those present were M. Géza *Bornemisza*, former Minister for Industry, the president of the Labour Organizing Institute, dr. Julius *Rassay*, manager of the Rimamurány-Salgótarján Ironworks, vitéz Louis *Saáry*, Ministerial Councillor, M. Coloman *Rimanóczy*, the representative in Transylvania of the General Alliance of Manufacturers, and many other authorities on economics from the mother-country and Transylvania.

At this meeting of the committee of the Transylvanian Labour Organizing Institute a very important decision affecting Transylvania was arrived at. It was resolved to form a joint stock company, the Transylvanian Natural Gas Co., with a share capital of 15 million pengő. The object of this new company is *to supply Central Transylvania and Széklerland with gas energy*. The work is to begin immediately and will probably be completed this year. When the programme has been carried out it will open up wide possibilities for industrial development in the Nagybánya district and Central Transylvania.

At the same meeting the applications for credit submitted by 15 Transylvanian undertakings were examined and *permission to issue industrial loans aggregating a further million pengő was granted*. It should also be mentioned that a mill has been established at *Gyergyószárhegy* to manufacture the flax and hemp grown in that district. This factory is working with the support of the Central Bureau of Agricultural Credit Co-operative Societies. The building itself

cost half a million pengő, besides the necessary working capital. A loan of half a million pengő was issued to make the establishment of this very important Székler undertaking possible. How important it is may be gathered from the fact that the factory will deal with the produce of about 250 cadastral acres this year, and next year it is calculated that it will manufacture the flax and hemp grown on at least 1500 acres.

The construction of roads in Transylvania is also progressing rapidly. Hitherto five firms of contractors have been given orders to build roads, among them the *Hungarian General Roadbuilding Company*, which received orders for the construction of three roads to cost 3 million pengő. The *General Central Credit Co-operative Society* has also undertaken to build three sections to cost 2 million, and three smaller firms have also received orders involving an expenditure of 2 million pengő.

Building activity is also going on in the towns. In *Kolozsvár*, for instance, the *General Family Protection Foundation* and the *General Social Insurance Institute* are engaged in important work. The former has built 15 pairs of semi-detached houses that cost 400.000 pengő. Much money is also being spent for cultural purposes. The Transylvanian "Ant" Co-operative Society alone has decided to spend 150.000 pengő on post-school education. At *Sepsiszentgyörgy* a four-class school of economy has been opened at a great expense.

Much valuable work in the way of popularizing Transylvania's beauty-spots is being done by the *Carpathian Society*. Only seven of the nineteen local branches of that Society returned to Hungary when the restoration took place, but in the first months three new ones were formed and the ten branches redoubled their efforts. Their library, consisting of several thousand volumes of relevant books, was reorganized and the works of art of muzeum value in their possession were re-arranged and catalogued. A plan embracing the whole of restored Transylvania and involving a budget of four and a half million pengő was elaborated by experts and according to that plan work was begun that aims, not only at encouraging tourist traffic, but also at affording the people of the country new possibilities of earning money.

The local branch at *Csikszereda*, for instance, has built a spa at *Hargita*, a place 1328 meters above sea level, and also the *Uz-Bence* tourist shelter. The local branches in Counties *Szatmár*, *Szolnokdoboka*, *Zilah* and *Marostorda* have also contributed to the growth of tourist traffic by building modern tourist shelters wherever they were needed. The central bureau at Kolozsvár has set up shelters at Hoja and Rég and spent a large sum on repairing the bridge and steps leading to the Zichy stalagmite cave. Even larger sums have been spent by the Society on providing the Zichy Cave with electric light and making paths in it. On the Horthy Peak in the Radna Alps the building of a large modern hotel has been begun, and it is proposed to construct ski-runs and shelters in the neighbourhood of every larger town. In a word, it may be said that the Carpathian Society, with its enthusiastic members, its experts and the credit of several million pengő at its disposal, is one of the most active and important factors contributing to the development of tourist traffic in Transylvania.

OSZK
Országos Széchényi Könyvtár