

SUMMARIES

O. Paulinyi: Enterprise and society

The present article is a chapter of a larger monograph wanting to examine the production relations in Hungarian mining industry first of all regarding the production of precious ores. This chapter deals with two basic phenomena in the field of production relations. One of them is the number and social stratification of contractors actively interested in the utilization and possession of what the mines offer. The other is the distribution of the products among the contractors known by name, and the social strata they belonged to. The age is the mid-sixteenth century, and the place is Selmecbánya, the most significant mining district of the day.

The method the author applies is not at all traditional, and can be considered new in this field: he makes a quantitative analysis and applies the method of statistics. This was made possible by the extensive source material of this kind: besides the charters, the financial records providing a mass of data constituted the basis of analysis. Only those records could be made use of, which dealt nearly with the whole field or were complementary to one another. Another criterion for the applicable sources was that they should be contemporaneous, i.e. the persons mentioned in them should be contemporaries, though different in age.

Six records — one of them covering a period of twelve years between 1537 and 1549 — meeting these requirements survive from Selmecbánya from the 16th century: this is the cause of the author's choice of subject. (For these records see: O. Paulinyi; *A bányavállalkozók személy köre a selmeci bányagazdaságban a XVI. század derekán. Adatsorok 1537—1549.* — Mining contractors at Selmecbánya in the mid-sixteenth century. Data from 1537—1549. *Történet-statisztikai kötetek*, Budapest 1967.)

Two of the mentioned records are of special significance and value: a tax record from 1542 and diary-like register of the assay office from June 1 1548 to June 30 1549, i.e. a whole financial year. The latter document revealed to us the division of the products among the known contractors as regards quantity and value. The property tax record made it possible to divide the inhabitants of the town into various groups according to their property and to establish their social status or occupation.

The citizens could be divided into seven groups on the basis of their personal property: 1. those who had no property, 2. those with a very small one, 3. those with a comparatively small one, 4. those with a medium property — low degree, 5. those with a medium property — upper degree, 6. those with a large property, 7. and the still wealthier.

1. —

2. 9

3. 45

4. 120

5. 300

6. 600

7. above 600

The figures indicate the size of the property; they cannot express the actual value, but are valid as relative indicators.

Out of the 333 mining contractors known from the years between 1537 and 1549 — including the members of the *Gesellschaften* of the actually working cutters — 176 persons, i.e. 52.83 per cent could be identified also in the 1542 tax register. The majority (86.82 per cent) belongs to the 3rd — 5th categories, the fourth being the most crowded category with 98 persons (55.68 per cent). The 6th and 7th categories are made up only of *Ringbürger*, who are to be taken as a separate social category. Apart from many other privileges, they also had the privilege of possessing foundries on the confines of the town. Out of the 42 *Ringbürger* 24 were mining contractors in 1542, while out of the other civilians and the employees of the treasury there were 42, including 25 artisans. The occupations of 22 are unknown. Half of them, 88 persons, were active miners, which is more than 10 per cent of the total number (more than 700 persons). Their high percentage shows how much the miners wanted to take their due share in the possession

and sale of the product of their work. The majority of proprietors, however, belonged to the categories of small and lower medium size property: $98+38 = 55,68+21,59 = 77,27$ per cent. This, too, was determined by the ratio of the working miners in the category ($73+11 = 84$ persons). Further on we can find the miners in the lower categories, while the other layers in the higher ones.

On the social distribution of the annual total product (177, 773, 667) from the financial year of 1548—1549 we are informed if we compare the known 81 contractors with the data in the 1542 tax register. Out of the 81 persons 40 could be identified on the basis of the tax register, 8 from other sources, i.e. 48 altogether, without knowing the extent of the property of the latter eight. The occupation, i.e. the social status of these persons could be found in this way. The picture we get is nevertheless valid, because it was these 48 contractors who took care of 98.65 per cent of the total output. So the relationship of the social groups and the per cent of total output possessed is the following: Ringbürger — 17 persons, 92.94 per cent (the seven highest taxpayers held here 86.28 per cent in hand), petty bourgeois contractors and the employees of the treasury — 12 persons, 2.60 per cent, miners and foundrymen — 19 persons, 3.11 per cent.

We can establish three categories on the basis of a person's ratio in the total output: I — a value of 45,000 to 4,000 florins; II — 3,000 to 301 florins; III — 300 to 2 florins. The minimum living standard of 42 florins is included. On this basis the distribution of the contractors goes as follows: Ringbürger — 7 (I), 6 (II), 4 (III), 17 altogether; petty bourgeois and treasury and city employees — 2 (II), 8 (III), four with an income below the living standard, 10 altogether; profession unknown — 2 (III); miners and foundrymen — 1 (I), 1 (II), 17 (III), eleven persons below the minimum living standard. 48 persons altogether, 15 below the minimum living standard. Out of the 33 contractors whose social status is unknown: 2 (II), 31 (III), 27 below the minimum living standard. Out of the 81 examined contractors 42 would not produce an income covering the smallest possible needs by this activity.

There is an interesting relationship here revealed by the data, namely those who profit by this enterprise the most are the wealthiest among the contractors. Five out of the six big contractors belong to the highest category of wealth. As opposed to this, in the category of small contractors the tendency is just the opposite. In the petty bourgeois category above the minimum living standard 75.25 per cent of the income (85.50 per cent with those below the minimum living standard) fell to the higher, 201 to 300 florin category. With the miners and foundrymen the income did not reach the maximum of the category neither above the minimum living standard or below, but was divided between the two lower groups (45—100 and 101—200 florins) equally. With those below the minimum living standard it was 65.21 per cent = 68.71 florins, in the lowest category of 1—15 f, and 34.79 = 36.66 florins in the medium category of 16—30 f. The latter was produced by two contractors at an average of 18.33 f, while the former was divided among 8 persons at an average of 7.39 f.

Further on the article discusses the distribution of capitalist and non-capitalist elements. Capitalist contractors were the following: 1. the 12 Ringbürger, owners of foundries with a 92.48 per cent ratio of the total output. 2. five Ringbürger renting foundries, 12 petty bourgeois and 4 former miner contractors. 21 persons altogether with 5.94 per cent of the output.

Non-capitalist contractors:

15 small contractors from the ranks of the working miners with 0.23 per cent of the total output. Capitalists and non-capitalists together: 48 persons with 98.65 per cent of the total output. The rest was in the hands of the further 33 contractors not mentioned in the 1542 register. Two of them can be considered capitalists with 0.98 per cent, 31 are workers with 0.35 per cent, from which 0.15 per cent belongs to 4 people producing above the minimum living standard with an average of 67.08 f, and 0.22 per cent to 27 persons below this standard with an average of 14.78 f.

Taking the latter 33 persons into consideration, out of the 81 contractors 33 were capitalists with 99.40 per cent of the total output, and 46 noncapitalists with 0.60 per cent.

These data betray an unbalanced structure of production in the field of mining. The 12 Ringbürger, possessing the biggest fortunes, monopolized the products of the mines and the right to sell them. A small group of miners wanted, however, to take part in these activities and privileges. Experience proved, however, no more sufficient. Only four of them succeeded in getting among the capitalist entrepreneurs. The majority could not produce even the minimum income from this enterprise on the whole. In the following chapters the author endeavours to give the reasons for this extreme polarization of society.

Gy. Ránki: The 1939 elections in Budapest

The article tries to analyse the correlation between the social structure and the right wing votes in Budapest during the election of 1939.

The recently found election lists of Budapest gave us a detailed account of the results of the election in all the 300 voting districts, and the lists contained the names, the dates and place of birth and occupation of all the round 300 000 electors. The article selected 14 typical voting districts with their about 10 000 electors and after classifying electors in different main social categories it came to the following conclusions.

There was a direct correlation between working class population and arrow cross votes, but almost the same number of working class votes went to the social democrats. The right wing parties were successful, because they got the same amount of support from the middle class, where the social democrats failed.

The analysis of this material is a striking denial of two extreme views regarding fascism either as a typical middle class movement or emphasizing its appeal only to worker class elements. The comparison of election results and social components (so far as it was possible by the data) seems to prove the very characteristic mixture of the Hungarian Arrow Cross Party.

By taking over a lot of popular slogans from the traditional counterrevolutionary right — extreme nationalism, antisemitism, antiurbanism or anticapitalism — it was successful in gaining the discontented middle class elements (gentry, army officers, bureaucrats on the one hand, artisans, small businessmen with uncertain economic roots on the other). Had the Arrow Cross Party limited its ideas and activity to these strata, it would have been hardly more successful than the former Cristian Socialist or Catholic parties were. Its success laid its foundation in the combination of all these ideas and was supported by an active, very aggressive anticapitalist propaganda luring part of the working class. Its hard, revolutionary-like methods, its new leading elite helped in the combination of the two varieties of anticapitalism from above and from below.

A. Tausz: Contribution to the life of industrial workers between 1919 and 1929

A number of historians have dealt with the political and economic aspects of the period as well as the history of the workers' movement in those years, and have given a versatile picture of the facts and events. The present author approaches the situation of the workers from the viewpoint of economic history, taking the structural changes of economic life resulting in the regrouping of the workers, motivating their fight for economic purposes and influencing their living standard into consideration.

The author has chosen the structural changes in industry after 1919 as a starting point, the main feature of which is that — in contrast with the heavy-industry-centred development of the past — the development of the light industries became prominent. The consequences of this on the working class were the growing employment of less qualified labour and women in ever growing numbers.

In the course of the concentration and centralization of capital the number of those working in large-scale industry gradually surpassed that of those in the small-scale trades. The present article — well documented with statistical charts — examines the changes in unemployment, in the real and nominal wages, the working hours and other factors of the standard of life, e.g. the structure of consumption goods, the housing problems, etc.

The author states that the period of moderate upswing around the mid-twenties brought changes in the fields of the nominal wages, social politics, health insurance and medical care. In spite of all these, however, there was no significant development in the basic conditions of work and living. Horthy's Hungary was one of the most backward countries as regards social policy with no regulations of unemployment relief, working hours and the right to strike.

A. Fehér: Formation and characteristics of local history dealing with problems of the people's democratic period in our country

Research in the national history of the period after the Second World War started very early and has played a significant part in Hungarian historical studies. Side by side with the study of problems of nation-wide interest, local research began to develop owing to a large extent to the establishment of the country research-groups of the Hungarian Historical Society. From the 1950's a range of scientific sessions, congresses and other types of meetings have dealt with the definitions, tasks and methods of research in local history. Competitions have been conducted,

individual and collective work encouraged. However, there were only few among the early competition papers that could reach scientific standards, the majority can be ranged among political propaganda leaflets and memoirs.

The new trends in historiography after 1956 had very positive effect also on the development of local history: the introduction of a certain village or town was now done on the basis of mansided research mainly from economic and social aspects. The method of using earlier works on national history as sources to this was, however, a very negative feature. The opposite should have been the way of getting valuable historical information.

In the second half of the 1960's another step forward was taken when the National Local History Council (*Országos Helytörténeti Bizottság*) and the county local history councils were established on the initiative of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The formation of the Local History Department within the Hungarian Historical Society marked another stage of the development in 1970. The problem is that while there is abundant source material concerning this period, no operative method has been worked out so far to guide the less experienced country historian. This is why publications in methodology and reviews of historical journals in the capital and of other journals in the country are highly valued. Local historians are not equally interested in every event or aspect of the period. Most of them deal with problems of the coalition, and very few with Rákosi's era and the counterrevolution of 1956. And again, the source publications and works on the last two decades are also numerous. More authors deal with the agricultural population than with city-dwellers, industry and the working class. Sociological methods are applied to a growing extent, but not quite efficiently.

The author finds it an important task for local historians to conduct more straightforward and bold inquiry and to show the proper relationship between the part and the whole, i.e. local and national history. The paper enumerates extensive source material and gives a select bibliography.

D. Kosáry: Enlightened Absolutism — an Enlightened System of the Estates

In the background of French Enlightenment there goes on a traditional controversy in different fields: that of the nobility and the rulers. This dialogue, however, found much stronger echoes in the peripheries of Europe, in the economically and socially less developed territories, where the bourgeoisie had not yet become a strong social force. Here the political ideas of Enlightenment were very different owing to the separate contradicting trends in society. In the second half of the 18th century we can find the following trends the parallels of which we can meet also in other parts of Central and Eastern Europe: 1. enlightened absolutism, 2. the trends of the enlightened nobility and 3. anti-feudal reformism. The representatives of this latter belonged already to the real western bourgeois Enlightenment and could therefore rise above the level of the mentioned dialogue. The first two trends analysed here did not want to demolish feudalism itself. They only wished to modernize it in their own ways.

Enlightened absolutism was actually an attempt of the Estates to reach the level of the French model in the backward peripheries of Europe remaining at the same time within the framework of feudalism. This means also that the competition of the developed and the backward countries makes the latter try to modernize themselves, their own outdated structure. In this case the inner basic preconditions are enforced also by an outer pressure. This was the way the late, enlightened form of absolutism developed for example in Prussia. The present article analyses the achievements of the Habsburg enlightened absolutism and the composition of its social basis. At the same time it criticizes certain former hypotheses attributing the spread of the new ideology in the Habsburg lands to the influence of French liberalism (cf. Szekfü) or viewing Josephinism as a product of Jansenism or enlightened Catholicism under the false impression that it had been the Church that transformed and modernized society and state alike. (cf. E. Winter).

The representatives of the second trend came from the ranks of the enlightened nobility. Their aim was the modernization of the old political structure of the nobility and of the feudal system of representation. They wanted to raise these aspects to a much higher level so that the system should be able to rival enlightened absolutism without throwing away the feudal framework. This tendency was present not only in Hungary and the adjacent Croatia, but also in Poland. During the Diet of 1764—65 the Hungarian nobility still stucked to the old and outdated views. It managed to defend its privileges, but was unable to withstand the rivalry of absolutism. Still, in the ranks of the same nobility we can observe from the 1770's enlightened groups interested in the problems of production for the market. They were later joined also by intellectuals of aristocratic or bourgeois origin. Their programme was in the beginning primarily of linguistic

and literary character (cf. Bessenyei), but from the late 1780's it included almost all important problems of politics, economy, etc.

The present analysis devotes special interest to the Polish model, which is very similar to the trends of the enlightened nobility. Finally it discusses the possibility of the survival of the enlightened — mainly cultural — targets after 1795, when parts of the nobility got terrified by the French Revolution and sided with the Habsburgs against France, and when the non-progressive tendencies prevailed for a long period.