

Economic Crisis at the Confluence of the Somes Rivers

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Abstract: Economic depression is a complex phenomenon, with repercussions in all sectors, particularly the economic one. The crisis in Romania was a reflection of the global crisis. Measures taken at government level, as were currency restrictions and the quota imports were considered a necessity. They were previously taken by the countries with which Romania has trade relations. The crisis has had an impact on the business environment in Dej less than among larger firms and especially to the small traders and craftsmen. And in some cases even amongst the individual offices. Changes arising from the crisis required a greater presence of women in the social and economic life and especially their associations. The fight was to get as much protection as both employed and an entrepreneur.

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1. Introduction

This crisis had a significant influence on the industry and agricultural phenomenon, different from land to land.

Although small peasant exploitation has adapted to the crisis better than the great farms, the depression had a strong influence in this sector. Being unable to sell their products at a good price, Romanian peasant continued to sow the same area of land, being content with a lower cash income, per unit of labor. And this was possible, especially because small farms did not use employment, but the work of his family and they were covering most of their needs with the products of their work.

Great farms could deal with this situation, although labor was cheaper later, by widespread practice “of the given part”, the remuneration was done directly in the products of the work, and thus the incidence of depression had an impact on producers. The adaptation was made possible by the fact that, on the one hand,

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small farms have reduced their consumption, and on the other, as was done a compression of production costs.

2. The Crisis in Dej

The crisis has had an impact on the business environment in Dej less than among larger firms and especially to the small traders and craftsmen. And in some cases even amongst the individual offices.

A comparison can be made using the list of businesses in Dej in 1928 (*Romania's Yearbook for commerce, industry, jobs and agriculture, 1928*) and 1935 (*Private Documents Fund "Radu Gavrilă" (FRG), file I, list 1, pp. 1-8*) of Finding and control of urban Constituencies Dej.

Among large enterprises were no longer "Railway Enterprise Heathrow", "Carting Enterprise" and "Factory barrels". If the first was put on state property, the other two have disappeared due to the economic situation. To these is added "Stone SA oil industry."

In the case of the TANNERS the number dropped from 11 to 8. Even the number of taverns, restaurants, pub and "flow drinks" the number decreased from 55 to 48. More dramatic is the situation of hotels whose number decreases from 7-2. Sure, the conditions offered by those who remained on the market were much higher. There were six stores of spirits and beer stores. In 1935 there were reported two deposits of drinks. Grocery in Dej were 55 in 1928, while in 1935 it was recorded as mixed trade and these were only 23, here entered the colonial trade and the drugstores.

A job well represented was the tailors. Both for men and women. If there were 46 before the crisis, after there were operating only 31. And potters remained less: from 12 to 5. A very telling statement on the purchasing power of Dej's townsfolk's is showed by the evolution in the number of lawyers. In 1929 there were registered 26 offices and in 1935 there were only 10 remaining. Some of them have passed into other business (banks, credit institutes, etc.) or in politics.

Remaining relatively the same were: confectioners, candy trade, butchers, shoemakers, barbers, carpenters, masons, painters. Adapting to economic changes has increased the number: mechanics (from 4 to 20).

3. Legislative Proposals

Changes arising from the crisis required a greater presence of women in the social and economic life and especially their associations. The fight was to get as much protection as both employed and an entrepreneur.

“Housewives Circles Association” proposed a bill protecting working women for the protection of pregnant woman and woman lately confined, mandating a rest from the employer of 20 days before and 40 days after birth, and financial assistance in this time. (Our Newspaper, no. 1-3, 1935, p. 2)

The 1928 law on protection of women and child labor and working time, stated that the employer gives a vacation of six weeks prenatal and six weeks after birth. The term may be extended upon request. The law also stated that those companies with more than 50 workers over 18 years old had to have inside the building or near a special room where women could breastfeed children for half an hour without loss of salary.

Regulation on maternal and child care from 1937, established the break of one hour, if the company did not have space, and half an hour if the company had space for breastfeeding. (Hamangiu, 1938, p. 2387)

Act of 1928, gives women with children a maintenance allowance and free medical insurance for disease.

According to the law of 1933, a women that contributed at least 26 weeks in the last year before the birth, benefit from medical and financial assistance for 12 weeks in which six prenatal and six postnatal (minimum six, six were post-natal).

Act of 1938, was more restrictive financial aid is granted if the insured contributes at least 36 weeks in the last 12 months or 52 weeks in the last two years.

According to the bill proposed by the “Housewives Circles Association”, proof of payment of social contribution by the employer is achieve by stamping the social stamp card of the worker. In the case of contributions of 90 days, Social Assistance paid the pre and postnatal leave. Payment was based on wages for women working states. Protection was extended to women in agriculture.

The Regulation for maternal and child care in 1937, established the establishment of child care dispensaries in each district, both in cities and villages. (Hamangiu, 1938, p. 2382)

According to the Association draft and the Regulation of 1937, mobile dispensaries have operated as maternal-child institution. In localities where infant mortality was a high percentage, teams were organized in collaboration with children's care centers, local administrative authorities and maternal-infant care societies.

They were doing girls education through conferences, through posters, videos, demonstrations, social evenings, exhibitions. There were organized “milk kitchens” in addition to clinics, where they offered free milk and hygiene materials for women in need and for pay for those with possibilities. Teams were formed consisting of child care specialist and pediatrics, one-two mobile instructors, which

are among the sisters' care and cares of children with long practice, a teacher or master of the household, teachers and social workers.

These teams in collaboration with church, school, cultural societies, conducted surveys, home visits, child care courses and household material assistance to women without any means.

For mothers and young girls from primary school were kept courses on general hygiene, infant care for newborns, infants, children aged two and three, children's diseases, care for pregnant women and woman lately confined. (Hamangiu, 1938, p. 2385)

Regulation of 1937, provided for the establishment of maternal homes, maternity hospitals, small children dispensaries, mobile clinics, shelters for days, swings, care centers, offices of urban, municipal, county protection, social services, and high mountain colonies. The sums necessary were paid from the budget and the Ministry and that of the House of Health and the counties, municipalities were to allocate at least 30% of the budget to the local health services. (Hamangiu, 1938, pp. 2381-2382)

Through the Association project and the Regulation of 1937 there were established in the cities of Arad, Brasov, Chisinau, Craiova, Constanta, Cernautsi, Cluj, Galati, Iasi, Oradea, Targu Mures, Timisoara and Bucharest care centers for abandoned children.

Association project took into consideration the protection of juvenile offenders. Interwar feminist movement supported the actions to help those minors. Thus the *Criminal Code (January 1, 1937)* in Article 567, introduced for the first time in Romania, special courts for minors. An important role in assisting juvenile offenders have had Institutes for preventions sponsored by women, they provide shelter, health care and the possibility of learning of trade or selling of products.

Women in interwar Romania Movement campaigned for amending the legislation on the status of illegitimate children and adulterers. The most vehement arguments were brought by lawyer Ella Negruzzi who made a comprehensive critical research of the legislation of paternity witch was in favor of men's who were shelter by the *Civil Code* Article 308, which allowed only search for motherhood.

Penal Code of 1936 introduced many changes on the protection of illegitimate children, due to the actions and the position taken by the feminist movement thru the word of Ella Negruzzi (Negruzzi, 1935, p. 3) and Maria Damilescu. (Damilescu, 1939, p. 3)

Women involved in "Housewives Circles Association", along with other female associations, throughout the interwar period contributed to improving the legal and institutional framework of social care and maternal-infant care.

They have simultaneously contributed to the process of institutional modernization and promoting social status influenced decision-makers and social reforms have contributed to the achievement of our country.

4. Conclusions

During the crisis, incomes in agriculture had declined, especially in proportion to revenue in the industry. Obviously the most affected were rural households but also cities, were the peasant products went to. Lack of vertical industrialization on farms, and no investment projects in the land had contributed to worsening the crisis.

Although small peasant exploitation has adapted to the crisis better than great service, the depression had strong influence in this sector. The situation of financing agriculture and lending by banks and cooperative was affected by the conversion of agricultural debt.

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