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IMPROVEMENTS IN RUMANIAN STEEL COMBINE

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The presidium of the Grand National Assembly of the Rumanian People's Republic has granted the request of Hunedoara Steel Combine workers to change the name of the enterprise to the Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej Steel Combine in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Rumanian leader. In honor of this occasion, the workers have striven to achieve new production heights. This enterprise has progressed steadily since its organization.

As a result of the new technical and organizational measures, the progress in the efficiency of management, and of the improvement of the worker's working and living conditions, the production of the Hunedoara Combine for the year 1948 exceeded the highest previous level.

The two state plans (1949 and 1950) entrusted the Hunedoara Combine with tasks which exceeded those of 1948, and these were exceeded. The 1949 production of iron exceeded that of 1948 by 66 percent; that of steel 50 percent; and that of rolled metals 54 percent. The total production of the enterprise was almost three times as large as the highest previous level. Production continued to increase during 1950, when the output of iron was 39 percent higher than that of 1949, that of steel 64 percent, and that of rolled metals 22 percent. Total production of 1950 was approximately four times higher than the highest prewar output.

The results attained during the 2 years of planned economy demonstrate the determination of workers to bring about the industrialization of their country and demonstrate the readiness of the Hunedoara workers and technicians to fulfill the tasks entrusted to them. The achievement of these important successes would have been impossible without the aid of the Soviet Union, which delivered large quantities of raw materials and industrial equipment, and which also gave advice and guidance through its specialists.

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The first Five-Year Plan opened great prospects for the Hunedoara Combine. It calls for an increase of almost 500 percent over 1950 production by 1955. This would make the combine the most powerful center of the Rumanian metallurgical industry by the end of 1955.

To cope with the new tasks entrusted to the combine by the Five-Year Plan, it was necessary to reorganize its technical and administrative structure by entrusting supervisory personnel on every level with the sole responsibility for specific tasks. Likewise each worker has been assigned specific responsibilities. He is thus given the opportunity of knowing exactly what is expected of him.

The establishment of a construction enterprise has been of great assistance to the activities of the Hunedoara Combine. The combine is thus no longer concerned with the carrying out of investment projects but can concentrate on the execution of the production plan.

The technical and administrative reorganization and all other measures taken in this connection have contributed to the strengthening of labor discipline, to the proper assignment of specific tasks to individual workers, and to the organizing of the combine in the manner of the large Soviet combines, thus establishing the conditions necessary for achieving even greater successes in the future.

The furnace stokers, steel workers, and rolling-mill workers have enthusiastically responded to the call launched by the collectives of the Steagul Rosu Plant in Stalin and the Sovrommetal Plant in Resita for fulfilling the plan in 11 months and are now delivering thousands of tons of steel, cast iron, and rolled metals in excess of the plan.

The Hunedoara workers and technicians have engaged in socialist competitions, have fulfilled their quotas daily, have successfully met all technical and economic norms, have adopted Stakhanovite methods, have joined the struggle for fully mobilizing the internal reserves of the enterprise with a view to fulfilling the plan, and have thus been able to accumulate savings of tens of millions of lei. Led by the party organization and guided by the unions, workers and technicians, by using socialist competition as a method for fulfilling the plan, have overcome all the obstacles which might have prevented their success.

Thousands of "competition contracts" were signed at the beginning of the first quarter of 1951, by the end of the quarter their number had increased 50 percent. Seventy percent of the total number of Hunedoara wage earners assumed "personal obligations" in the competition organized in honor of 23 August.

As a result of the more efficient organization of labor, the new technical and organizational methods, extensive use of Stakhanovite methods, and the large number of socialist competitions, major successes have been achieved by the collective of the Hunedoara Combine. Thus, during the first three quarters of 1951, the production plans for iron, steel, and rolled metals have been fulfilled 108.9 percent, 106 percent, and 113.9 percent respectively.

The exceeding of the plan won for Hunedoara two out of three red banners for production awarded by the metallurgical industry.

One of the main concerns of the collective of the combine has been the improvement of the quality of the production by strengthening plan discipline. More effective organization of qualitative control within the enterprise brought about a stricter observance of standards and also facilitated the prompt detection of qualitative shortcomings. Thus it became possible to take the steps

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necessary for eliminating factors preventing the fulfillment of the required qualitative standards. A brief analysis of the data on rejects and substandard products for the first three quarters of 1951 reveals that the struggle for quality has been generally successful. During the first and second quarters, the number of rejects was lower than anticipated in the plan: 0.007 percent instead of 0.2 percent for iron, 2.92 percent instead of 4 percent for steel, and 0.57 percent instead of 0.8 percent for rolled metals. Likewise, during the third quarter, the proportions were 0.0024 percent, 2.97 percent, and 0.57 percent for iron, steel, and rolled metals respectively.

The figures for substandard products also reveal progress. During the first half, the proportion of substandard products was lower than anticipated, as follows: steel, 0.45 percent instead of 1.5 percent and rolled metals, 0.007 percent instead of 0.7 percent. During the third quarter, too, the figures for steel and rolled metals were lower than anticipated. The enterprise has still to overcome certain shortcomings insofar as the quality of cast iron is concerned. But taking into account the fact that qualitative control becomes more stringent every day, we may conclude on the basis of the above analysis of the achievements of the first three quarters of 1951 that the quality of the products is improving daily.

The successful fulfillment of the production plan is directly connected with the continuous improvement in technical and economic indexes. The Hunedoara Combine is vigorously pursuing the daily struggle for better technical and economic indexes. In this respect, definite successes have been achieved by the blast-furnace section, which exceeded the requirements of the plan for the profitable utilization of blast-furnace capacities per day 9 percent. The same section also has been able to reduce the consumption of coke in manufacturing crude iron from 1,100 tons of coke (per ton of crude iron) to 1,053 tons. The Martin furnace and rolling mill sections have likewise been successful in improving their consumption indexes by substantially lowering their consumption of fuel and raw materials. The consumption of fuel per ton of steel was 20,000 kilocalories below that anticipated by the plan, while that per ton of rolled metals was as much as 44,000 kilocalories below the expected figure. Moreover, the consumption of electric power per ton of rolled metals was 7 percent lower than anticipated.

Technical and economic indexes can be improved by the extensive utilization of Stakhanovite work methods and by the adoption of effective technical and organizational methods for the most economical and efficient utilization of the available equipment. The collectives of the Martin furnace and rolling mill sections, which have fulfilled their planned utilization indexes only 98 and 93.5 percent, respectively, are making every possible effort to fulfill the requirements of the plan for utilization of equipment.

Despite the great effort required in transforming the Hunedoara Combine into a modern combine, the workers and technicians are nevertheless still faced by serious difficulties, which must be eliminated as soon as possible. One of the most serious difficulties facing the Hunedoara workers is the failure to fulfill the planned investment projects on time. For instance, a new foundry and an ingot-molding room were to be opened in the Martin furnace section. Although the production plan for the third quarter had been fulfilled, neither the foundry nor the ingot-mold room were ready. A similar state of affairs prevails also in the rolling mill section, where several new installations scheduled for completion last July are not yet ready. The production plan was therefore fulfilled by utilizing the available equipment more efficiently and by increasing the tempo of production beyond the requirements of the plan.

Another serious difficulty which hampers the efficient operation of the combine is the failure to develop an internal transportation system which would take care of all production needs. The storage depots are overloaded since

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the available rolling stock, composed chiefly of discarded CFR (Rumanian Railroad) engines and cars, is too outmoded and inadequate to satisfy the increasingly higher demands of the combine.

By adopting well-thought-out technical and organizational measures designed to eliminate the existing difficulties, by discovering and utilizing the internal resources of the combine, and by adopting and making wide use of Stakhanovite work methods, the Hunedoara workers and technicians have successfully fulfilled the plan. The suggestions and advice of Soviet technicians have been of great value in this connection. For example, the manual feeding devices of two nonmechanized blast furnaces were connected to the mechanical feeding system. As a consequence, the production capacity of the blast furnaces was substantially increased, and the health of the men who were previously responsible for feeding the furnaces is no longer endangered by the gases released by the antiquated feed system.

Another step designed to speed up the steel-manufacturing process in the foundry has been the adoption of the system of casting ingots one and a half times as heavy as before. Thus the foundry equipment is used less than before and the production process proceeds at a more rapid pace.

The acquiring of a few extra motors by the Martin furnace section has been of great value in assuring continuous production, since the reserve motors are used whenever the regular ones are being repaired.

The various innovations introduced by Hunedoara workers have revealed many hitherto unexplored internal resources. Bruno Palcau has developed a new method of charging blast furnaces which has helped reduce fuel consumption and has assured more uniform working of the furnaces.

Likewise, substantial savings have been achieved by adopting the suggestion of the leading innovator, Archadie Schwartz, to reduce limestone in an old, unused blast furnace. Since it is no longer necessary to have lime shipped in from other enterprises, the Hunedoara combine has been able to save as much as 1.2 million lei a month.

Many similar examples reveal the genuine love of the Hunedoara innovators for their enterprise, their interest in using the available installations, machinery, and equipment as efficiently as possible, and their ardor to discover new internal resources and to strive for continuous technological progress.

The daily work of the Hunedoara workers and technicians has been greatly facilitated by the adoption, on a large scale, of Soviet Stakhanovite work methods. Following the example of the leading worker, Gheorghe Simeria, who was the first to use the quick charge method developed by the Soviet Stakhanovite Matulinate, an increasingly large number of Hunedoara steel workers are now using the Matulinate method. During the first half year alone, hundreds of quick charges were performed and the quota was exceeded 60 percent, during the third quarter, more quick charges were performed than in any previous period. During the competition organized in honor of 7 November, the Hunedoara steel workers performed nearly 100 quick charges, thus realizing economies in the consumption of materials, tar, and scrap iron valued at 10,801,738 lei.

Important successes have been achieved at Hunedoara also by the introduction of production timetables. In the rolling-mill section, for instance, the productivity of labor increased 10 percent as a consequence of the adoption of production timetables. Hundreds of extra tons of rolled metals were produced. The Nina Nazarova method of socialist maintenance of equipment has met with

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much success at the Hunedoara Combine. Furnace stokers and steel and rolling mill workers maintain blast furnaces, furnaces, rolling mills, and other installations thus guaranteeing more effective utilization and longer life.

The adoption of the Kotlyar method has greatly increased the number of skilled workers. This method has been especially popular with expert workers who have concluded socialist contracts pledging to work toward raising the skills of as many as three of their co-workers.

The adoption of another Soviet method has brought about the reduction of the time required for performing planned preventive repairs. Machinery which is about to be repaired is taken apart and carefully examined. As soon as the prospective repairs are determined, it is put back in operation until the scheduled repair period. In the meantime, the spare parts, tools, and auxiliary materials required for the repair work are assembled, so that everything is ready by the time the repairs are to take place. As a consequence of all these steps, the actual time needed for repairs is cut as much as one third and occasionally even more. The time required for repairing a crane, which, in the past, was as long as 3-5 months, has now been reduced to 29 days -- 4 days of preliminary work and 25 for actual repairs.

If we represent the productivity of labor during the first quarter of 1951 by 100, the productivity of labor per worker is represented by 128 during the second quarter and by 130 during the third. The productivity of labor per employee also increased from 100 during the first quarter to 127 during the second and to 131 during the third.

The verification of production norms in accordance with the provisions of the Decision of the Party and Government of 27 February 1950, as well as the adoption of a salary method by which everyone is paid according to the quality and quantity of the work performed, have greatly contributed to the achievement of these results.

At present, the collective of the combine is mainly concerned with introducing planned management in all sections of the enterprise. The achievements of the collective -- economies, reduction of manufacturing costs, and intensification of the struggle for better quality products -- have stimulated the search for new means and methods for strengthening and expanding the system of planned management throughout the Hunedoara Combine. Well organized socialist competitions have been influential in effecting economies. The workers and technicians of the combine engaged in the socialist competition organized in honor of the 30th anniversary of the party and in the struggle for fulfilling the plan in 11 months have been able to achieve economies of 116,589,000,000 lei during the first half of 1951. During socialist competitions, many leading workers came to the fore. Smelter Ion Oprea, stoker Constantin Macovei, ingot caster Teodor Irina, smelter Gheorghe Ilea, and loader Ion Olteanu may be considered the best workers in their fields.

The Hunedoara workers are continually improving their material, political, cultural, and professional status. More new apartments are available to them, and their working and living conditions improve steadily. The solving of the drinking water problem, making carbonated water available to workers, the setting up of special food stands for workers requiring extra energy, the improving of industrial safety measures, and the better organization of the social security system are all indicative of the care and love of the people's democratic regime for the working people.

Considering the results obtained in the competition organized in honor of 23 August, the workers and technicians of the Hunedoara Combine pledged fulfillment of the production plan of the combine by 1 December and, moreover, to

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increase the productivity of labor 10 percent. The furnace operators pledged to work toward that goal and increase the productivity of labor 10 percent, the steel workers pledged 93 quick charges, and the rolling-mill workers pledged savings up to 10 million Lei and an increased productivity of labor of 10 percent.

The blast-furnace section fulfilled its plan on 4 November, the OSM (Martin furnace) section on 6 November, and the rolling-mill section on 31 October 1951.

The miners of Telluc and Ghelar have contributed greatly to the achievement of these successes by fulfilling their plan for 1951 as early as the beginning of November, making possible the delivery of the required fuel in time for exceeding the plan by the Hunedoara Combine.

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