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IMPROVEMENT OF PRODUCTION METHODS IN RUMANIA

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Rumanian industry has improved the standard of living of its workers and created better methods of production in a number of ways. These include the formation of economy brigades, increasing the productivity of labor, competitions, the adoption of Soviet methods, modern equipment, and advanced training.

Two thousand economy brigades were established during 1950. In numerous cases, cost checks were instituted. As a result, in 1950, metallurgical and chemical enterprises alone refunded 161 million lei to the state from their revolving funds. The workers and technicians began, especially toward the end of 1950, to take a close interest in the quality of the products. During this period, over 2,000 quality brigades were formed, and these contributed effectively to a considerable improvement in products.

In an attempt to attain maximum productivity of labor, the methods of Soviet Stakhanovites were studied. In 1950, Soviet Stakhanovite methods made their appearance in every branch of production and in every enterprise. The gallery reinforcement method and multidrilling in mining, rapid drilling in the oil industry, the quick preparation of charges in the iron and steel industry, the high-speed cutting of metals in the machine-building industry, the "Five-Hundred" movement in transportation, high-speed bricklaying in building, the timetable method in the textile industry, and other methods helped more and more workers and technicians to fulfill and overfulfill the plan. Numerous innovations appeared. In the metallurgical and chemical branches alone, 1,700 innovations, which brought about savings of 387 million lei, were introduced.

During 1949 and 1950, production rose to twice that of 1948. The productivity of labor increased considerably. In the machine-building industry in 1950, it increased 26 percent over 1949; in the iron and steel industry, 13 percent; and in the petroleum industry, 14 percent.

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Increased production and increased productivity of labor made it possible to reduce costs 6 percent for industry as a whole.

Socialist competition first became popular at the beginning of 1951. Initiative in all branches of production began to appear. For example, the initiative of the workers at the Turda Cement Plant in undertaking to produce more than the daily quota of cement set by the plan spread to all cement plants in the country.

The appeal issued by Sovrommetal at Resita and Steagul Rosu to fulfill the 1951 plan in 11 months was observed in almost 1,500 enterprises.

The drive to achieve economy over and above the plan through the development of cost checks and of economy brigades spread throughout the country. By 1 November 1951, savings of more than 230 million lei had been realized in the machine-building industry, 450 million lei at Sovrommetal, and 580 million lei in light industry. A total of over billion lei were saved.

Groups were formed to discover and utilize internal reserves. At the Baia-Mare Combine alone, hundreds of suggestions were made by the workers and technicians, which led to rationalization of the production process and to the fulfillment of the plan ahead of schedule.

To fulfill the plan ahead of schedule and to fulfill their pledges, the workers and technicians began an extensive campaign to spread the advanced work methods of the Soviet Stakhanovites. Delegations of Soviet Stakhanovites visited the RPR (Rumanian People's Republic) and gave practical demonstrations of their methods.

Pavel Bykov, a Soviet Stakhanovite, demonstrated the high-speed method in the cutting of metals. At the time of his arrival there were only a few dozen workers who applied this method. At the end of 1951, there were over 3,000 lathe, planing, and milling machine operators in the metallurgical branch alone who applied the high-speed method. As a result the average speed in the cutting of metals increased from 40 meters to 150-200 meters per minute.

The high-speed method of bricklaying introduced by V. V. Koroliyev, Soviet Stakhanovite, has now become the prevailing method of bricklaying.

At Sovrommetal in Resita, savings of over 16 million lei have been realized through the application of the Soviet Kuznetsov method of reconditioning tools.

In many enterprises, plan discipline has been strengthened following Soviet experience by use of the hour chart, uniform procedures in transportation, and other methods.

In the framework of socialist competition, during the first year of the Five-Year Plan, much attention has been given to the training of skilled personnel. Here, too, the workers and technicians learned from Soviet experience, applying Stakhanovite Kotlyar's method for qualification on the job. Over 18,000 workers were qualified during the second quarter of 1951 alone with the help of this method.

On the basis of Soviet teaching and experience, the first signs of close collaboration between scientists and workers have begun to appear. Thus, at the Timpuri Noi Plant in Bucharest, scientists have assisted the workers in solving certain technical problems. At Tesatura in Iasi, research work has been conducted in connection with the preparation of certain substances needed for the production process.

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More than 5,000 innovators appeared during the first half of 1951.

The enrichment of socialist competition with these new elements and methods and the participation in competition of 68 percent of the wage earners has made possible outstanding results in production. For example, in July 1951, a team headed by Gheza Kopetin, a miner at Lonea, one headed by Ion Ciupea, a miner at Sorecani, and a team of metal forgers under the leadership of N. Bacanu at the 1 Mai Plant in Ploesti were working on their 1952 quotas. Over 1,400 enterprises had completed the plan for the first half of the year by June 15, and by 7 November, 547 enterprises were working on the second year of the Five-Year Plan. In Stalin Regiune alone, 30 plants are working on the 1952 plan. In addition, 36 enterprises in the metallurgical and chemical branch and 11 plants in the electrical engineering industry completed the 1951 plan 2 months ahead of schedule. The productivity of labor increased 13 percent over the third quarter of 1950.

The rise in the standard of living in the RPR is shown by the following table:

<u>1948</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
100	130	150.8

This is explained by the fact that the average wage grew continuously every year; in 1949, it increased 30 percent over 1948, and in 1950, it increased another 11 percent over 1949.

Some miners, metalworkers, and oil workers earn 20,000-50,000 lei per month. Leading Stakhanovites such as Gheza Kopetin or Constantin Vasilache, a lathe operator, earn 80,000-100,000 lei per month.

Paralleling the successes achieved in production, there has been an increase in the volume of goods distributed to the population through state and cooperative organizations. The following figures show this increase (in percent):

<u>1948</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
100	306	410

Also, the 370,000 square meters of workers' housing which were made available for use in 1950 constituted a great contribution to the improvement of the standard of living of the workers.

The improvement in the workers' material status, however, is not apparent only in the increase in the average pay or earnings. The more than 255,000 wage earners and their children who were provided with vacation facilities during 1950, the more than 11 billion lei provided for pensions and financial assistance through state social security, and the nearly 2 billion lei spent to improve health conditions for the workers represent only a few aspects of the increase in social welfare. The contribution made by social welfare to the improvement of the workers' standard of living is apparent from the fact that in 1949 alone 26 billion lei were spent to meet the health and cultural needs of the workers, and in 1950, social welfare increased 25.6 percent.

The state budget expenditures for social and cultural purposes are increasing every year. Thus, the following expenditures (in billion lei) were made in the years indicated:

<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
23	87.6	104.7

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Social and cultural expenditures during 1950 represented 20.3 percent of the state budget.

The fight against illiteracy during the last 3 years was carried out with success as illustrated by the following figures:

Courses			Graduates		
<u>1947 - 1948</u>	<u>1948 - 1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
9,669	15,291	19,834	171,264	429,697	557,616

During 1951, literacy courses were taken by 700,000 students.

A total of 60 million copies of books and pamphlets were printed during 1950, and the circulation of newspapers rose to 564 million copies. The number of volumes in libraries increased 1,500,000.

As a result of the improvement in living conditions and the rise in the cultural level, infant mortality decreased considerably. This situation is shown (in percent) by the following figures:

<u>1945</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1950</u>
19.1	14.3	9.3

A number of enterprises have been equipped with modern technological facilities. Among them are Sovromtractor, the Steagul Rosu Ball-bearing and Petroleum-Machinery Plant, and the Vaduri Forestry Combine. Many of the old enterprises such as the Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej at Hunedorara and Timपुरi Noi have been outfitted with modern machinery and equipment. Today, the RPR is producing tractors, agricultural machinery and tools, lathes, petroleum machinery, special steels, electric motors, equipment for the manufacture of cement, textile machinery, tugs, heavy railroad cars, and street-cars.

The country obtains invaluable assistance from the Sovroms, which are rich sources for the dissemination of Soviet experience. Through them the Soviet Union is helping to introduce the most advanced technology.

During 1951, a changeover was made from the assembly-line production of the IAR 24 tractor to the production of the KD 35 with no slowdown in output.

Through Sovromcarbune, Soviet technology and Soviet technicians strengthened the coal industry. They introduced advanced methods of work, the extension of mechanization, the organization of work, cost accounting, and constant care for the individual. The machine cutting of coal was extended, and electric drills were introduced.

The establishment of Sovrompetrol gave a new stimulus to petroleum production. The enterprises were supplied with superior technical equipment required in drilling and extraction, tractors, and other machinery brought from the Soviet Union.

In the electrical engineering industry, the workers and technicians are applying numerous Soviet methods and making use of Soviet documentary material for the manufacture of new products such as asynchronous motors, radios, inter-rupters, telecommunications apparatus, and other items.

A factor which is contributing in large measure to raising the level of our technology is Soviet professional literature. This material shows how to prepare plans for new factories, how to develop existing factories, and how to

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improve the industrial processes in introducing the manufacture of new products, in the formation of cadres, in raising professional standards, in fixing the state standards, and in introducing cost accounting.

Special assistance is given by the Soviet specialists in the RPR. There are consultants, engineers, technicians, and Stakhanovite workers who have given direct assistance in designing and building new factories, plants, and powerhouses, in organizing production, and in increasing the number of trained personnel.

A large number of students is studying at higher technical schools in the USSR. In the fields of electric power and the electrical engineering industry alone, 200 workers, technicians, and engineers are currently pursuing specialized studies in the USSR, acquiring the most advanced technical knowledge in the scientific institutes and the most modern machine and electrical equipment factories.

Industrialization is led by State Prize holders such as Gh. Sipos, lathe operator, and Ion Vale, junior engineer at Steagul Rosu in Stalin, who studied, designed, and manufactured new machine tools; Grigore Balaban and Ion Marin, boiler maker at the Vulcan Works, Bucharest, who built a model high-pressure boiler; Iacob Baca, automobile mechanic at the Timisoara Vehicle Depot, who produced a new type of automobile distributor; and many others.

There are numerous workers and technicians who have completed several yearly quotas. For example, Constantin Vasilache, metal worker at the Gheorghiu-Dej Plant in Targoviste, by applying the speed-cutting method, has already finished six yearly quotas; Ion Furtuna, milling-machine operator at Steagul Rosu, Stalin, who, by a better organization of his work and by operating several machines, has already completed three yearly quotas and is the initiator of the campaign for better utilization of machines. Similarly, Mirita Marin, a locksmith, has turned in two yearly quotas. Gheza Kopetin completed two yearly quotas in 1950 at the Lonea Mine and two more in 1951. Iosef Imre, a die-cutter at Electroprecizia in Satulung, also completed two yearly quotas, and Aurelia Sarkozi, Elisabeta Zahan, and Aurora Mora, weavers, are operating 60 automatic looms.

The marked success achieved by Stakhanovites is not due to any overexertion but to the sustained efforts to become as familiar as possible with the production process, to bring to light methods for its perfection, to improve the equipment, and to put the working hours to full use. The adoption of the new technology by these men is not an accidental affair. The party and the government have worked constantly to build up the trained personnel needed for the adoption and mastery of the advanced technology and the achievement of the objectives set by the Five-Year Plan. In 1950 alone, more than 2 million students completed courses in intermediate and professional schools, and 33,000 workers and technicians received superior-skill ratings and became specialists. This contributed greatly to a better utilization of facilities.

Thus, in the iron and steel industry, the utilization of the usable volume of the furnaces increased 16.5 percent in 1950, the number of hours of use per year of installed power at the powerhouses exceeded the plan quota by 7.8 percent, and the time-utilization index for machinery in the machine-building industry increased 13 percent over the first quarter of 1950.

The development of the Stakhanovite movement in the RPR has attracted wide attention among the workers. Conferences with the leading metallurgical workers constituted a highly instructive beginning in this direction.

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However, to promote the development of the Stakhanovite movement and the campaign for continuous strengthening of the new attitude toward work and toward communal property, it is necessary that the shortcomings which still persist in production be liquidated.

A serious shortcoming, which led to a curbing of mass enthusiasm in competition, is the failure to respect plan discipline. For example, at the Steagul Rosu Works, the plan was fulfilled with respect to tonnage, and far ahead of schedule. However, certain categories of great importance, such as petroleum machinery, were neglected and delayed. This situation is also found at the Rezistenta Motor Factory, where four sections fulfilled the plan, but because of lack of planning in the loading of the machinery, two categories were far behind schedule. Failure to follow plan discipline manifested itself in some enterprises through overeagerness. For example, at the Metrom Works in Stalin, there was a break in production at the beginning of October because of faulty planning, and as a result, many hours of overtime were put in toward the end of the month, thus overloading the machines.

The technical staff failed to give its first attention to the creation of technical and organizational conditions which make for proper development of the production process and for a continuous rhythm.

Some enterprises failed to take measures to help the workers fulfill the pledges taken in socialist competition. In the Moinesti and Utilaj Petrolifer petroleum enterprises, for example, work on the October quota did not begin until 10 October, and thus, the workers were late in taking their socialist competition pledges.

Formalism in competition still persists in many enterprises. Neither the trade unions nor the administrative bodies in these enterprises have given sufficient consideration to the liquidation of this harmful bureaucratic holdover. A conclusive example of this is the Strungul Plant at Stalin, where the foremen worked out the details of socialist competition in the office, without the workers even knowing what these were.

A serious shortcoming appeared in certain trade-union groups, such as those at Otelul Posu in Severin and Filimon Sarbu in Galati. This was the failure to draw technicians into socialist competition.

Also, the problem of keeping records on the fulfillment of the pledges in the competition has been and still is in large measure neglected. For example, at Ochiuri, at the Turda Cement Factory, at the Comanesti lumber mill, and at Fusul in Galati, the problem of keeping records has not received adequate attention from the management, and, therefore, the workers engaged in competition are not able to follow their progress in the fulfillment of their pledges.

This lack of records attracted more attention at the recent production conferences, where the first Stakhanovites and front-line workers were confirmed. In some enterprises, because of the lack of records, the titles of Stakhanovite and front-line worker were granted on the basis of regular attendance at work, honesty, or long-time service, as happened at the Brezoiu lumber mill, and the Bistrita Terracotta Factory, while at other enterprises such as Dinamo in Bucharest, and the Zarnesti Cellulose Plant, workers were regarded as Stakhanovites solely on the basis of having exceeded their quotas.

Some of the trade-union groups such as those at the 23 August Plant, the Industria Sarmii at Campia Turzii, and Infratirea at Oradea made no efforts to publicize the front-line workers and the Stakhanovites, or to spread their methods, thereby depriving the workers of strong support within the framework of socialist competition.

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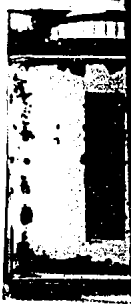
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The important tasks confronting the working masses in the fulfillment of the Five-Year Plan ahead of schedule make it necessary for the trade unions and administrative bodies to liquidate the shortcomings and give their undivided attention to the development of socialist competition and of the Stakhanovite movement.

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